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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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'Kan Pacific deal ushers in new casino era'

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

» Best Sunshine, Kan Pacific mum on cost of 'lease assignment'

Kan Pacific Saipan and Best Sunshine International, Ltd. officials remained noncommittal yesterday to divulging details—or a price tag—on a deal to have Kan Pacific assign the remaining lease years of their coveted Mariana Resort and Spa property to the Saipan casino, noting these were private and confidential. Instead, the officials, pointed to the future, saying that the deal would bring the Commonwealth into a "new era."

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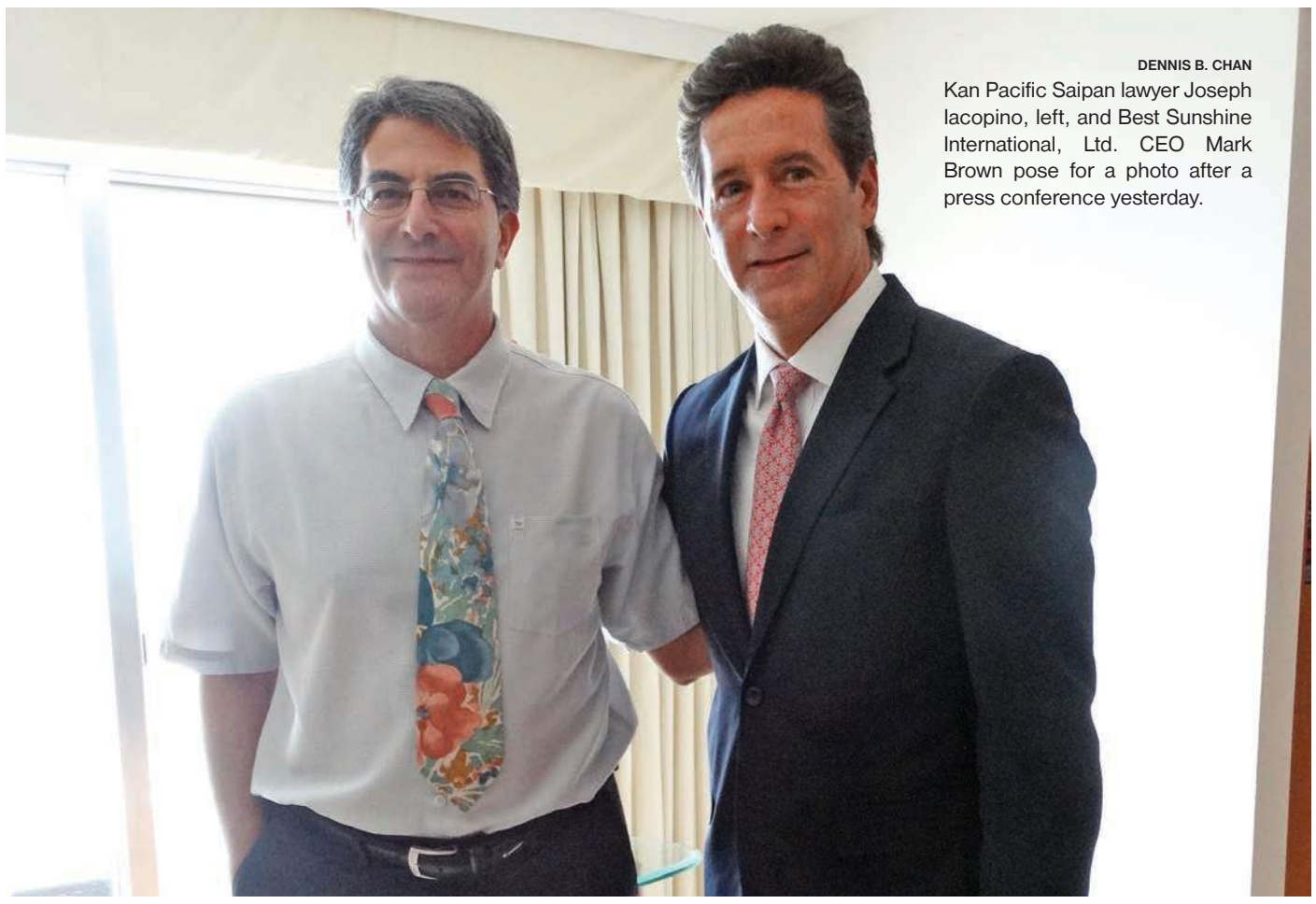

DENNIS B. CHAN
Kan Pacific Saipan lawyer Joseph Iacopino, left, and Best Sunshine International, Ltd. CEO Mark Brown pose for a photo after a press conference yesterday.

New law to bring millions more to CNMI schools

WASHINGTON, DC—As a result of the Every Student Succeeds Act, public education in the Northern Mariana Islands is about to get a major boost, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) announced yesterday.

Overall, the new law will increase Title I-A funding to the insular areas by 30 percent. The Northern Marianas, however, is expected to receive a 60-percent increase over its current funding. That will bring a total of $11.1 million to the CNMI Public School System in 2017. Further increases should continue through 2020.

President Obama has indicated he will sign the Every Student Succeeds Act into law on Thursday.

"Public school officials have told me they will use this new money to hire more teachers and reduce student-teacher ratios in our schools," Sablan said. "And we know from educational research that lower student-teacher ratios improve student performance.

"I remain convinced that education is key to the success of our people and our economy now, and 10, 20, 30 years into

See LAW on Page 4

Federal judge warns CUC of contempt

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» Judge learns about CUC's consensus to 'boycott' pipeline project

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge David O. Carter yesterday warned the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. that any type of CUC "boycott" or other failure to comply with court orders is unacceptable and will result in the immediate initiation of contempt proceedings.

Carter issued the warning in his order denying CUC's motion for the court to hold a status conference in the $4.6-million CUC pipeline project.

In its request for a status conference, CUC estimated that under the management of Gilbane Federal more than $8.8 million will be spent for the construction of the new pipeline before it is finally completed.

Carter disclosed that he learned that CUC's management's "joint consensus position" is to "boycott" CUC's pipeline project.

The judge said he learned about the "boycott" consensus after being presented with email correspondence between the parties in the case likely not in-

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Japanese brands dominate the insurance industry's rankings of the safest vehicles for the 2016 model year.
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Local

Manglona orders continued detention of 3 defendants in 'ice' shipment case

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona yesterday granted the U.S. government's motion to detain pending trial the three suspects in the shipment of $850,000 worth of methamphetamine or "ice."

Citing the seriousness of the offense and defendants being flight risks, Manglona ordered Xi Huang, Shicheng Cai, and Zhaopeng Chen remain detained pending further proceedings.

Manglona remanded the defendants to the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

Should an indictment be filed in this case, the judge said the preliminary hearing set for Dec. 21, 2015, would be converted to arraignment for all defendants.

In granting the motion, Manglona said there is a significant amount of "ice" or close to 5 lbs involved in this case.

Manglona said it also appears to be a sophisticated scheme and that there was use of fake document or the driver's license. She also noted the timing of the offense, among other factors.

In moving for the defendants' continued detention, assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe said the U.S. government would be relying on the affidavit of the criminal complaint, arrest warrants, and the pretrial services reports from the U.S. Probation Office.

Backe said the defendants pose flight risks because their intent was to leave the CNMI shortly thereafter.

Backe said also involved in the case was the use of fake document or the Saipan driver's license.

Backe said if released from custody, there is no condition to guarantee that the defendants will attend future hearings as they have the ability to leave the airport.

The prosecutor said the defendants should be detained pending trial.

Attorney Robert T. Torres, court-appointed counsel for Huang, said his client does have family ties because his parents are staying on Tinian.

Torres said Huang went to school on Tinian and lived there. He said Huang went to

See MANGLONA on Page 3

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Tinian Dynasty's casino to reopen Tuesday

MANGLONA

From Page 2

China in 2010.

Torres said his client reserves the right to rebut presumption at a later time.

Attorney David Banes, court-appointed counsel for Chen, joined in Torres' request to reserve the right to rebut presumption.

Attorney Mark Hanson, court-appointed counsel for Cai, did not argue.

A routine Customs inspection at the Port of Saipan of a 40-foot container from Guangzhou, China, reportedly resulted in the discovery of the 4.9 lbs of "ice" hidden in three plastic bags in one of nine 5-gallon paint containers last Dec. 2.

Joint federal and local enforcers investigated the discovery of the "ice" that led to the arrest on Monday of Huang, Cai, and Chen, all Chinese nationals.

The U.S. government filed a complaint charging the defendants with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute "ice."

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino has gotten the go-signal to reopen its casino floor on Tuesday, Dec. 15, from the Tinian Casino Gaming and Control Commission.

In a phone interview yesterday afternoon, TCGCC executive director Lucy Blanco-Maratita confirmed the news. The application to reopen had been waiting approval from TCGCC.

"The commission has approved it for that date," said Blanco-Maratita.

She added that the casino still had to meet the conditions of the application, but that it had been approved.

In an earlier interview, Maratita listed some of these conditions, among others, include:

- Payment of table and slot machine fees and outstanding taxes from last fiscal year, starting in August;
- Payment of unpaid employee salaries or a plan on how they will repay these employees' back wages;
- Assurance that they will continue to contract services with Spectrum Gaming, a consultant, for casino management to help the casino maintain compliance;
- Identification and disclosure of the source of funds for its reopening.

The casino, if it reopens, will not be a 24-hour operation, Maratita earlier said.

It will open from 11am to 3am the following morning, and close between those hours, except for Friday through Saturday, where they will be open for 24 hours.

The Tinian casino is operated by the Tinian Dynasty. It was closed in August this year, followed by the hotel's closure in September, with the management citing the impact of Typhoon Soudelor, which hit Saipan on Aug. 3.

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LTA, Commerce team up to deliver focused skill certification

The Latte Training Academy, Inc., through a sub-grant from the CNMMI Department of Commerce, is currently accepting registration for eligible CNMI residents to avail of focused trainings and certification in the hotel and hospitality industry.

Made possible through a grant from the U.S. Department of Interior, the program offers specialized trainings toward a certification as a front desk representative, guestroom attendant, restaurant server, or maintenance worker.

All certifications are conferred by the prestigious American Hotel & Lodging Educational Institute (AHLEI) are recognized globally throughout the hotel and hospitality industry. The focused trainings are newly launched through the American Hotel & Lodging Educational Institute and are aimed at providing participants with specific skill development within the highest demand areas in the hotel and hospitality industry.

"The emphasis of the focused training sessions is premised on helping participants rapidly develop skills and knowledge in the areas which present the highest employability potential within the industry. This allows them to rapidly join our prized tourism workforce in a much shorter time frame, with a globally recognized certification within that specific employment area", said Latte Training Academy secretary Tina Palacios.

Commerce Secretary Mark Rabauliman welcomed the change in approach for the training program.

"During the first launch of the program, the Latte Training Academy began with the maximum number of participants allowed by the grant, however throughout the course of the program, they experienced significant attrition due to the length of the program. The full START program which provides an overall certification in multiple areas of the hotel and hospitality industry is 180 hours. This was a lot of hours for students to maintain for the duration of the program. Despite issues with attrition, the program certified nine students through the American Hotel & Lodging Educational Institute, many of whom are currently employed in the industry. The change in approach limits the areas that participants will be able to certify in, however the trainings are more focused limiting the maximum time to 50 hours. This should provide for a higher retention and completion rate for participants" said Rabauliman.

The courses will begin in February and are scheduled for 20 hours of classroom work, with the approximately 30 hours in the field with partner hotels. Each course will be able to accommodate a maximum of 12 students per sessions with the most in-demand sessions to begin first.

The organization is currently accepting registration for the curses. Interested participants can learn more by visiting www.lattetrainingacademy.com or by calling toll free 1-855-544-8500. ***(PR)***

LAW

From Page 1

the future."

Sablan has been working to strengthen education funding to the Northern Marianas since he first came to office in 2009. At that time, PSS was receiving just $3.6 million in Title I-A funds. The $11.1 million that PSS can now expect in 2017 represents a 208 percent increase.

"I am particularly grateful because this is the only change in the Title I-A funding formula that was included in the entire bill. This is one of the most difficult changes in law that I have worked on for the Northern Mariana Islands," said Sablan.

"It would not have been possible without the understanding and support of Chairman John Kline and Ranking Member Bobby Scott of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. I also owe special thanks to Ranking Member Marcia Fudge of the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education."

Earlier this year, Sablan introduced H.R. 851, which separated Title I-A funding for the insular areas and Bureau of Indian Education schools, and increased funds for both. Sablan's proposals were incorporated in the Every Student Succeeds Act.

Title I-A helps low-income communities like the Northern Mariana Islands by providing special federal funding for their school systems. It is the nation's largest federal aid program for K-12 public education.

The new law also makes the Northern Marianas eligible to compete for Preschool Development Grants and Education Innovation and Research Grants, which were previously open only to states.

The additional funding for the Northern Marianas and the other insular areas is contingent on the passage of 2017 appropriations that increase Title I-A funding overall to ensure that the states do not lose funding. Sufficient appropriations to support the increase are projected for 2017.

Every Student Succeeds is not the first increase for education during Sablan's term in office. He also worked with the Department of Education to make adjustments in funding based on the 2010 Census, which showed a 55-percent rise in children living in poverty in the Northern Marianas since 2000. Funding did go up for NMI schools, from $3.6 million in 2009, to $4 million in 2012, and to $6.6 million in 2015.

Sablan says he is now looking forward to working with the Committee on Education and the Workforce in the coming year on legislation to enhance higher education. ***(PR)***

JUDGE

From Page 1

tended for the court's eyes.

Carter said any actions designed to thwart or obstruct Gilbane Federal from completing the pipeline are contrary to the court's orders.

Gilbane Federal is a California-based full service construction company that was appointed by federal court to serve as engineering and environmental management company and task to expeditiously complete some CUC projects.

Carter said he is deeply concerned CUC intends to take such impermissible action.

The judge restated the EEMC's authority given his growing concerns regarding CUC's compliance with the court's orders.

Carter reminded CUC in the strongest terms that a "boycott" or any other tactics that delay and obstruct pipeline construction and the EEMC are what drive up—and already have driven up—the cost of the project.

Carter said the new pipeline must be completed as soon as practicable or the citizens of CNMI and the environment will suffer irreparable harm.

Carter said time is of the essence, particularly given the threats of typhoons and oil spills from the existing pipeline.

"These are not abstract concerns," said the judge, citing that an oil spill from the existing pipeline occurred as recently as Sept. 21, 2015.

Carter said he will not address CUC's new assertions that it does not want a new pipeline after all, but highlights it was CUC voluntarily and formally requested the court to require CUC to design and build the pipeline by Feb. 24, 2011.

The judge said the CNMI government and the U.S government ultimately joined this request, the Department of the Interior authorized project funding, and the court ordered the pipeline built.

Carter said CUC failed to timely build the pipeline, which necessitated the appointment of Gilbane Federal to complete it.

He said indeed, CUC, the CNMI, and the United States government all urged the court to establish an engineering and environmental management company for all Stipulated Order 2 requirements and activities.

"At this late, the court will not change course. Doing so would be contrary to the public's compelling interest in having a new pipeline that eliminates oil spills," Carter said.

On the construction method issue, Carter said because the parties are in agreement about the construction method, a status conference is unnecessary and would only function to further delay pipeline construction.

Carter ordered CUC to update the court on the progress of Tank 102 project by filing a status report by Dec. 22, 2015.

In CUC's motion for a status conference, CUC legal counsel James S. Sirok noted that though Gilbane Federal continues to mobilize construction of the pipeline at a total cost factor of at least $8.8 million, there has been no change to the $4.6-million funding ceiling of the project.

In the U.S. government's response, the U.S. Department of Justice urged CUC to set aside its impediments to the construction of pipeline as DOJ reminded CUC that it is the utilities agency's ineffective management for nearly five years that caused the costs of the project to escalate, yet the pipeline remained unbuilt.

DOJ Environmental Enforcement Section senior attorney Bradley R. O'Brien also described as "abstract" CUC's statements that the utilities agency may find financing to potentially build an unspecified power plant "at an unknown location at an unknown point in time, thereby rendering the pipeline potentially unneeded.

The oil pipeline project is an 8-inch aboveground receiving pipeline that delivers diesel fuel from the Mobil oil facility to CUC Power Plants 1 and 2 in Lower Base. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency had stated that until the pipeline is properly repaired or replaced, it poses a threat to the adjacent ocean.

KAN

From Page 1

"[The negotiations] are really irrelevant," said Kan Pacific lawyer Joseph Iacopino during a press conference yesterday.

The deal announced Wednesday—coincidentally—comes nearly a month after Kan Pacific held a rally that drew hundreds to garner support for a new lease for their hotel in Marpi. It also comes nearly a month after Department of Public Lands opened a competitive bid process for these lands.

The new Kan Pacific-Best Sunshine deal essentially provides that Kan Pacific will assign its remaining lease to the Saipan casino and will continue to operate the resort for at least a year, the casino said in a statement Wednesday. The Kan Pacific lease expires in April 2018.

Asked for the price tag on the new deal, Iacopino said, "That's not available for discussion" and that negotiations grew more intensive after last month's rally. "We had some preliminary discussions that really didn't seem to go anywhere—but coincidently—after the rally, there were some more."

When pressed for more details, Iacopino said, "Y' know, I am not going to talk about the negotiations."

He was responding to a question from *Saipan Tribune* to clarify what he meant by how negotiations "didn't seem to go anywhere"—and if that meant a proposal or offer was rejected.

"First of all, they are really irrelevant," Iacopino went on to say. "What's really important is that we went through a process of working together and we ended up with an agreement that's good for everyone."

Emotional

During the press conference yesterday, Kan Pacific president Yoshiro Kitami grew teary-eyed as he recounted speaking to hotel staff that morning.

Speaking through a translator, Kitami said that "if there is right location and right timing" he was "willing to invest the monies and continue the business here in the CNMI."

He said he grew emotional speaking to resort staff, who "are really encouraging him to keep him going."

"It's been emotional day," added Iacopino, "and understandably people are still waking up to this new fact. But—in spite of any element of sadness that there could be—there is a lot of excitement about this new era that's really being ushered into the CNMI."

Use of existing facilities, employees

Best Sunshine officials have earlier said that the Marpi property—because of where it is and its size and location—would put together an incredible resort, and consolidate the other $5 billion of their proposed $70-billion investment on Saipan, with "the world's largest water park, thousands of hotel rooms and jobs," among others.

The Marpi lot includes lots used for racecar tracks, mini golf courses, and the Marpi hotel, cottages, villas, and maintenance and sports facilities, and other vacant lands held by Kan Pacific.

When asked yesterday if Best Sunshine would tear down or use the existing facilities, Best Sunshine CEO Mark Brown said, "Just wait for the RFP."

"Then you'll see our entire plan," Brown added.

The resort currently has 159 employees, according general manager Gloria Cavanagh yesterday.

Brown said, "there should be absolutely no concern about" whether they have a job.

"We have 740 employees. We are going to have 3,500 employees at the Grand Mariana [casino resort in Garapan]. So there should be actually no concern about anyone there not having a job," Brown said.

"It's plenty of opportunity," added Iacopino. "By the time of winding down of the Mariana Resort, the other facilities of Best Sunshine will have developed."

Giving thanks

"I will do everything in my power to help as many people as possible for " in this "time of transition," Kitami said yesterday. "We are looking forward to the future. We will continue to stay on Saipan. It is our home. I want to say from the bottom of my heart, thank you very much Best Sunshine."

He also thanked Kan Pacific lawyers, former governor Juan Babauta, former lieutenant governor Diego Benavente, former senator Pete Reyes, lawmakers of the House minority bloc, and his son and family.

"Thank you very much CNMI for" for their support in "this most difficult time," Kitami said.

"Today is a great day," added Brown. "A very great day. People ask us—what does this mean for the community? For us, this is a first step of a master plan that will benefit all of the people of the CNMI, and all of the people of Saipan. As we met with the top officials of Kan Pacific, and explained our vision and plan, they became as excited as we are… We need thousands of employees to make our plan come true. Our plan is fully understood by Kan Pacific and they understood this is the best opportunity for everyone involved. Our relationship moving forward will consist of teamwork and understanding. Best Sunshine would love for Kan Pacific to stay. Build a beautiful hotel on this site and continue to promote and push for Japanese tourists to continue to come to Saipan…. Both companies care deeply about the people of Saipan.

"As we go into the future, all will prosper. This is given a reason for not only to stay but it is also another reason for our children to come home," Brown said.

CARE director reports on organization's update

By DAISY DEMAPAN
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REPORTER

With the Federal Emergency Management Agency demobilization soon, Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts director Jenny Hegland noted several ongoing efforts and updates.

Hegland announced that the group is now under the legal counsel of the law offices of Robert Torres, which she says, helps solidify the efforts of CARE.

In terms of recovery efforts, the organization is still quantifying unmet needs, noting that repair and rebuilding home needs have now reached 400 clients.

"We are quantifying how much this would cost to address this need," with the consideration of the building estimates made by volunteer organization World Renew last month.

According to FEMA federal coordinating officer Stephen M. DeBlasio, more needs and housing assistance are continually being given based on appeals with the $1.6 million allocated on Wednesday.

DeBlasio states that this funding will go toward the Public School System, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., the Department of Public Works, Department of Homeland Security, and the Oleai Sports Complex, among others.

Hegland shared that she is currently working on fundraising and communication plans in collaboration with the organization's communication and resource development subcommittee to apply for a three-year Americorps VISTA or Volunteers in Service to America positions for Karidat and for CARE which will focus on building capacity.

"We really need to be able to understand what the needs are and who we are trying to serve… we are taking the 112 estimates by World Renew and looking at it as a subset that is representative of the entire need," she says.

Out the 112 clients seen by World Renew, she shares, 25 cases needed complete rebuilds and 87 were home repairs.

Hegland states that the final costs breakdown is still yet to be determined.

Based on the data by village, CARE estimates that 20 to 30 percent of unmet needs individuals are of Northern Marianas descent, in terms of advocating for the use of Marianas Public Land Trust funds for recovery efforts.

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Champion: Michael Ren
Runner-up: Vincent Tudela

Boys' Under 14 Singles
Champion: Luke Beling
Runner-up: Bobby Cruz

Boys' Under 14 Doubles
Champion: Robbie Schorr+Ken Song
Runner-up: Michael Ren+Vincent Tudela

Boys' Under 12 Singles
Champion: Robbie Schorr
Runner-up: Ken Song

Boys' Under 12 Doubles
Champion: Daniel Kang+Ji Min Woo
Runner-up: Rintaro Miyawaki+Richard Steele

Boys' Under 10 Singles
Champion: Anthony Gregoire
Runner-up: Andrew Chung

Boys' Mini Tennis
Champion: Ravi Richards
Runner-up: Lai Hunn Lam

Girls' Under 16 Singles
Champion: Isabel Heras
Runner-up: Tania Tan

Girls' Under 16 Doubles
Champion: Isabel Heras+Tania Tan
Runner-up: Mimi Sakano+Ami Tsukagoshi

Girls' Under 14 Singles
Champion: Malika Miyawaki
Runner-up: Conatsu Kaga

Girls' Under 14 Doubles
Champion: Conatsu Kaga+Malika Miyawaki
Runner-up: Maria Gregoire+Asia Raulerson

Girls' Under 12 Singles
Champion: Coume Kaga
Runner-up: Erika Tuttle

Girls' Mini Tennis
Champion: Anika Camacho
Runner-up: Katie Choi

Men's Open Singles
Champion: Luke Beling
Runner-up: Bobby Cruz

Men's Open Doubles
Champion: Luke Beling+Martin Jambor
Runner-up: Dylan Ackerman+Seiya Eda

Men's 4.0 Singles
Champion: Vincent Tudela
Runner-up: Steven Goodwin

Men's 4.0 Doubles
Champion: Don L Castillo+Ronie Lacbayo
Runner-up: Steven Goodwin+Vincent Tudela

Men's 3.0 Doubles
Champion: Clayton Izuka+Alex Park
Runner-up: Randy Steele+Richard Steele

Men's Over 40 Singles
Champion: Raj Kumar Rai
Runner-up: Dong Min Lee

Men's Over 40 Doubles
Champion: Donn Dunlop+Nicky Nichols
Runner-up: David Lai+Eddie Wu

Women's 4.0 Doubles
Champion: Conatsu Kaga+Malika Miyawaki
Runner-up: Mimi Sakano+Ami Tsukagoshi

Women's 3.0 Doubles
Champion: Ayumi Kaga+Keiko Ojima
Runner-up: Ami Miyawaki+Megumi Sekiguchi

Mixed Open Doubles
Champion: Isabel Heras+Jeff Race
Runner-up: Neghar Rastguiy+Bobby Cruz

Mixed 4.0 Doubles
Champion: Lydia Tan+David Lai
Runner-up: Marivic Rosario+Diony Peralta

Mixed 3.0 Doubles
Champion: Grace Choi+A J Hudkins
Runner-up: May Ling Colombo+Rintaro Miyawaki

Mixed Over 40 Doubles
Champion: Lydia Tan+Ken Imaya
Runner-up: Arn Diaz+Raj Kumar Rai

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ON NONPAYMENT OF SETTLEMENT IN BABY'S DEATH

Camacho invites Legislature, OMB, Finance to submit briefs, declarations

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday invited the Legislature, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Department of Finance to submit briefs or declarations over the government's failure to pay a judgment of $35,000 that was entered in 2013 as a settlement of a wrongful death lawsuit.

Camacho expressed concern about the far reaching ramifications of the issues raised in the wrongful death lawsuit filed by couple Timothy Cruz and Jotonia B. Aguon, especially as the plaintiffs call into question issues related to the repeated non-payment of court-ordered judgments in the CNMI, as well as whether the 2016 budget is unconstitutionally unbalanced, which could result in a government shutdown of all non-essential government functions.

Cruz and Aguon are holding a judgment against the government in the amount of $35,000 as a settlement of their lawsuit that they filed in 2012 over the death of their child during delivery at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Cruz and Aguon, through counsel Michael Dotts, filed a motion for an order in aid of judgment that asked the court to direct the government to pay them the final judgment.

According to Dotts, the government has not ever made even a partial payment despite agreed to a settlement.

Dotts said with the Appropriation and Budget Act of 2016, the court has the power to aid Aguon and Cruz. He asserted, among other things, that the Act vests the governor with "reprogramming authority within the Executive Branch."

The Office of the Attorney General opposed the motion. Assistant attorney general David Lochabay asserted that the motion is not supported by any authority and should be denied on that ground alone.

Lochabay also asserted that a CNMI Supreme Court previous ruling forbids courts from directly or indirectly ordering payment of judgments for which the Legislature has not appropriated funds. Camacho heard the motion last Nov. 17.

In an order issued yesterday, Camacho invited the Legislature, the Office of Management and Budget, and Finance to file an amicus curiae brief.

Amicus curiae (Friend of the court) refers to a brief filed in court by an entity who is not a party to the case.

Camacho said at the very least, an opportunity should be given to the CNMI Senate, House of Representatives, Office of Management and Budget, and Finance, to be heard on this matter.

Camacho said he is interested in the following issues:

■ Whether an order in aid of judgment would be the proper legal mechanism with which to rule that the 2016 budget is unconstitutionally unbalanced.

■ If there is any other mechanism for the plaintiffs to seek payment of their judgment against the government, in light of the repeated failure of the Legislature to appropriate for court-ordered judgments.

■ Whether the court ordering a payment of a judgment out of the $8,000 highlighted in the 2016 budget, or in the alternative ordering the governor to reprogram funds for the payment of these judgments, is distinguishable from the case of Marine Revitalization Corp.

■ Whether a CNMI annual budget is unconstitutionally unbalanced if it does not specifically name the judgments owed by the government.

■ If the court does rule that the 2016 budget is unconstitutionally unbalanced, in effect immediately shutting down non-essential government functions, whether there is a mechanism for the court to stay its order to allow the Legislature to pass a supplemental budget.

Any filings, Camacho said, shall be due on or before Jan. 29, 2016.

Construction worker acquitted of domestic violence

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday acquitted a construction worker accused of beating up his wife at their house on Saipan this year.

At a bench trial, Camacho granted assistant public defender Matthew Meyer's motion to acquit the 34-year-old Frederick G. Cabang as to the charge of assault and battery.

The judge said the court is convinced that when Cabang made physical contact with his wife, it was for the purpose of defending himself.

Camacho said the government has failed to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Cabang's physical contact with his wife was unlawful.

"Though rarely reported, men can and are victims of domestic violence too. Whether a man, woman or child—no one deserves to be a victim of domestic violence," the judge said.

Camacho said it is troubling for the court, that the prosecution automatically assumes the woman is the victim and the man is the abuser.

Clearly, the judge noted, from words of the wife herself, she was the one who started the physical abuse.

At the trial, assistant attorneys general Betty Weintraub and Emily Cohen called five witness, including defendant's wife.

The wife testified that she and Cabang came from a party and they were arguing as they walked home.

On the road, the wife slapped the drunk Cabang several times. At home, the argument continued and that she slapped and punched him repeatedly.

After she kicked him in the groin, he punched her on the face. She renewed her attack by punching, slapping, and kicking him.

She said she grabbed Cabang's private part and twisted and pulled it.

She then grabbed a butcher knife and hit him on the leg. He then grabbed the knife away from her.

The wife ran outside the house and called out to people for help and police.

Asked why she called the police, she said she wants her husband to get in trouble.

After calling in the fifth witness, the prosecution rested the government's case. The prosecution also dismissed the disturbing the peace charge.

Assistant public defender Meyer then moved for judgment of acquittal as to the remaining charge of assault and battery.

In granting the defense's motion, Camacho said the wife is the initial aggressor and Cabang was slapped, punched, and kicked on the face, body, and groin.

Camacho said defending himself from further attack, Cabang punched her and she stopped her attack and ran outside of the house.

Camacho said from the wife's own words, she called for help from people and the police just to get Cabang in trouble.

The judge said Cabang did not continue any physical contact beyond what was necessary to defend himself.

Camacho added that whatever happened between the couple and whether they are still staying together or not, they should get counseling. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		12/01/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	12/02/2015 Buffet Lunch $14 Dinner: A La Carte	12/03/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	12/04/2015 Buffet Lunch $14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $25 (Local: $22)	12/05/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $25 (Local: $22)
12/06/2015 Sunday Brunch $22 Dinner: A La Carte	12/07/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner Buffet: Reg.: $25 (Local: $22)	12/08/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	12/09/2015 Buffet Lunch $14 Dinner: A La Carte	12/10/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	12/11/2015 Buffet Lunch $14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $25 (Local: $22)	12/12/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $25 (Local: $22)
12/13/2015 Sunday Brunch $22 Dinner: A La Carte	12/14/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	12/15/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	12/16/2015 Buffet Lunch $14 Dinner: A La Carte	12/17/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	12/18/2015 Buffet Lunch $14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $25 (Local: $22)	12/19/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $25 (Local: $22)
12/20/2015 Sunday Brunch $22 Dinner: A La Carte	12/21/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	12/22/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	12/23/2015 Buffet Lunch $14 Dinner: A La Carte	12/24/2015 Christmas Brunch: $25 Dinner Buffet: $30	12/25/2015 Christmas Brunch: $25 Dinner Buffet: $30	12/26/2015 Lunch: A La Carte Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $25 (Local: $22)
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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Christmas in the Marianas Festival resumes tomorrow

»Total of $31,000 in cash and prizes at stake for various competitions

The CNMI's Christmas in the Marianas Festival enters its second Saturday tomorrow, Dec. 12, with the successful opening night that went off without a hitch still fresh from everyone's minds.

The public is again invited to be part of tomorrow's festivities at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.

Last week, the energy level of the students and teachers shone as brightly as the nighttime stars. There was a flurry of singing and dancing that livened up the joyful spirit and camaraderie of all those who are present.

The participants that joined in the yuletide song and dance competitions made it clear that the students were there to celebrate breaking through the rough times after typhoons Soudelor and Champi.

Even a slight downpour could not dampen the spirits of the students and teachers as they celebrate the holiday season through caroling, dances, and the Christmas tree decorating contest.

This is a breakthrough year with new events added to the already fun-packed menu. The middle and high schools will be joining the Christmas tree decorating competition with $4,000 in cash up for grabs.

Unique to this year is the Teachers Karaoke contest where there is $1,000 first prize and sing-off every weekend towards the finals on Dec. 26.

New also to the Christmas program will be thousands of dollars in cash and prizes given away for (1) the Most-Spirited School presentation, (2) best dressed (uniformed) school (3), and crazy costume contest. A distinctive feature this year will be the perpetual trophies for elementary, middle and high schools in the float competition and Caroling competition. This will encourage more spirited competition in the ensuing years.

The Caroling Contest will have $6,800 in prize money, the float contest has $4,000, and the Christmas costume competition has $1,250 in prizes. The float competition will have more than $4,000 in prizes.

This year the general public has been invited to join the float parade, although not in competition, but will help to show the students the community support as we all recover from typhoons Soudelor and Champi.

The parade, as part of the float competition, is a great way to share the holiday spirit with tourists.

The lineup entertainment and competition for this Saturday will be: Hopwood Junior High Band as a warm up and in competition are Green Meadow School, William S. Reyes, Northern Marianas International School (elementary and middle), Kagman Elementary, Hopwood Jr. High, Chacha Middle School, and Kagman High School in competition in the choral singing and costume contests. The teachers will round of the fun with their Karaoke contest as they battle towards the finals.

A total of $31,000 in cash and prizes will be awarded on Dec. 26 to the winners of the competitions and the funds will go directly to the schools to fund their immediate needs.

This year will feature tents of community outreach groups that will utilize the event to bring much need awareness of their services, community assistance as well as conducting community surveys. There will be special tents put up for these agencies and the venue will also provide an outlet for arts and crafts and food offerings.

This year, KKMP radio and KKMP foundation has taken the lead for Christmas in the Marianas to raise funds and produce the event along with our partners Team PDI, PDM promoters (T-Galleria, Tan Holdings, Kinpachi & Furusato), Best Sunshine CSR team, and the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Due to budget cuts at MVA, the KKMP team had to call on their community entities, private and government, to join them to enact this event so that our children will have a Merry Christmas after surviving typhoons Soudelor and Champi

KKMP's collaborators allocated financial, in-kind and tax credit support to move Christmas in the Marianas forward. Without the collaborators/sponsors the program would have been impossible to stage.

The platinum partners are Best Sunshine International, Mariana Resort and Spa, CHCC-DPH-Community Guidance Center and MVA. The gold sponsors include Honest Profit, DCCA-Division of Youth Services, DPS-DDDD-CIOT-Highway Safety Office, G4S security, DOC-Alcohol Beverage and Tobacco Control. The silver sponsors are BECQ-Coastal Resources Management division, IT&E, T-Galleria DFS, Commonwealth Ports Authority Bridge Capital, Fiesta resort and Spa, DOCOMO Pacific and DPS-Boating Safety. The bronze sponsors are Skywalker Communications Group, Kanoa Resort, CHCC-DPH- Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Bank of Saipan, DCCA-Arts Council, Joeten Enterprises and the Commonwealth Office of Transportation Authority. In-kind partners are MARPAC, DIAL Rent to Own, Pacifica Insurance.

KKMP expresses its sincere gratitude to our community for helping the kids and the schools recover from recent calamities.

(Jon Perez)

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Petey Pablo, Bubba Sparxxx to put on two-night show

» Music video possibly to be shot on island

THOMAS MANGLONA II

From left, Steven Brownstein, Bubba Sparxxx, Nola Hix, and Petey Pablo pose for a photo after a press conference yesterday at Hyatt Regency Saipan. The artists will be performing live at Godfather's Bar tonight and tomorrow.

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Grammy nominated rapper Moses Mortimer Barret III, widely known by his stage name Petey Pablo, along with American hip-hop recording artist Bubba Sparxxx, will take the stage at Godfather's Bar tonight and tomorrow made possible by Steven Brownstein Entertainment.

The two prominent artists have worked together for 15 years and will be performing some of their greatest hits for a Saipan audience for the very first time this weekend.

"We love it here," Petey Pablo told media in a press conference yesterday. "The island is so peaceful…The cliffs that they have over here [that we visited while touring] is something special."

When asked what his favorite song was, Bubba Sparxxx said: "My favorite song is "Nowhere" because it is a real accurate depiction of where I cam from and how I grew up."

Bubba Spraxxx's "Nowhere" debuted on the Top 10 on the Billboard 200 and sold over 60,000 copies in its first week in 2003.

His partner, Petey Pablo, has had equal success not only as a musician, but actor, as well. He appeared in the film *Drumline* and more recently played a character in FOX's hit show, *Empire*.

Rumors of the two shooting a music video on island surfaced as their performance date neared. The artists told *Saipan Tribune* that islanders should "keep their eyes open and play close attention" to their next project. "It's a potential yes," they said in response to whether or not the video will be shot.

Tonight's show is already sold-out. However, tickets for limited seating are available for $25 to see Bubba Sparxx and Petey Pabloe Saturday night. The artists will be leaving the island Tuesday.

SHEFA board looking at prioritization of employment fields

By DAISY DEMAPAN
daisy_demapan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance board discussed yesterday the need to provide more incentives for specialized studies in terms of post-secondary graduate education degrees.

This discussion comes from the Public School System's need for special education teachers and other specific degrees that also benefit the office of Vocational Rehabilitation as well as the Division of Youth Services.

According to the Special Education State Advisory Panel meeting last month, middle schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, showed that for 229 special education students, there are only 13 HQTs with the help of numerous aides.

For elementary schools, it's 269 students to 16 teachers and for high schools it's 282 students to 9 teachers.

Board member Raymond Muna also noted the other importance of fully supporting the Northern Marianas Trades Institute once it is accredited to address the labor needs of the CNMI to ensure that students who do not pursue traditional degrees can still become gainfully employed.

SHEFA chair Oscar Babauta lamented on the difficulties faced by graduating students who avail of the SHEFA scholarship program who are rejected from employment due to a lack of experience.

"For those freshly out of college, although they have their degree, experience is a barrier to gaining employment which is why we are revisiting this with the Civil Service Commission and working with the Department of Labor to break down and prioritize employment fields," he said.

Board member Ursula Aldan expressed that there have been previous discussions with the Office of Personnel Management and that there are existing avenues where students can become employed even without experience.

"It depends on the hiring department to pick these students up with no experience but there are steps and levels where employers can put them on probationary periods," stating that the hiring of new graduates without experience can be done thereby rendering the practice of disqualification based on experience unwarranted, she said.

Storm debris volunteer clean-up continues Saturday

Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts will continue with its volunteer storm debris sorting and staging project this Saturday, Dec. 12. This weekend the project will focus on Kagman, with volunteer activities from 8:30am to 12pm.

Volunteers are needed to assist in sorting storm debris from Typhoon Soudelor in preparation for its removal. Once debris is sorted by the volunteers, debris will be removed and properly disposed of by the CNMI Department of Public Works and the Saipan Mayor's Office.

Interested volunteers are asked to meet at the open field outside Santa Soledad Church at 8:3am. There they will be assigned to a team leader who will direct their clean-up efforts.

CARE is partnering with United 4 Saipan for this clean-up event.

Volunteers are encouraged to wear long pants and closed-toe walking shoes. Water will be provided. For more information, go to www.cnmicare.com. ***(PR)***

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'Embrace Spirit of Marianas with Mariana Breeze'

By DAISY DEMAPAN
daisy_demapan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Avidly promoting locally made spirits on Beach Road, the new management of Mariana Breeze has taken over formerly known Mariana Tropical Liqueurs.

Owner Chang Sun Bang returned to Saipan looking to get into business. Previously, she worked on the island during the economic boom of the garment industry and eventually returned home to Korea. She took over Mariana Tropical Liqueurs early in May.

Chang renamed the business Mariana Breeze to represent the relaxing atmosphere of the island.

To date, there are a total of seven liqueur flavors available from locally grown mango, coffee, ginger, papaya, coconut, soursop, banana and guava all naturally made with no sulfites added.

DAISY DEMAPAN
Newly added flavors also include mango and coconut vodka and sweet potato soju.

According to previous owner Mary Asper, the locally made spirits started out as an idea that grew out of a family vacation to Italy. Her Italian family made liqueurs using soft fruit and grappa or a grape seed base.

When her family returned to Saipan they started experi-

See EMBRACE on Next Page

DAISY DEMAPAN
Mariana Breeze features a total of seven liqueur flavors available from locally grown mango, coffee, ginger, papaya, coconut, soursop, banana and guava all naturally made with no sulfites which are best consumed cold as a mixed drink cocktail or served over ice cream as a delectable dessert.

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EMBRACE

From Page 11

menting by making their own liqueur, using a rum base and infusing various tropical fruits grown on the island by soaking them in the rum for several months. The results were delectable enough that Asper decided to try distilling their own liquor. It was then that she ordered a still, and experimented with fermentation, using several bases. A base using the water from the green coconut and small tropical bananas worked very well, while adding sugar and yeast to ferment for many days until the mash is then distilled, producing a high alcohol content liquor with a slight sweetness. Once the process is completed, fruit is added and the mixture is aged in large glass jars or demijohns for many months.

This results in an alcohol content of about 40 proof or 20 percent, making for a very long shelf life.

Chang says that since the typhoon and storms this year, fresh fruit to make new batches has been a challenge but shares that all flavors are still available.

The flavors, she says, are of fresh island fruits that pair well especially served cold, to any mixed drink cocktail or served over ice cream as a delectable dessert.

Chang illustrated that taking over the business stems from a life-long hobby and passion as a connoisseur and collector of spirits noted by her extensive travel throughout the United States, Canada, and France.

With these experiences, she has added naturally flavored vodkas and soju to their line of products, many of which are packaged with local flair for those looking for unique gifts for the upcoming holidays.

Chang shares that locally made liqueurs follow the seasons and many fruits are purchased through partnerships with farmers or purchased at the Sabalu and Thursday Street Markets.

The liqueurs are currently available for purchase at Joeten Shopping Centers in Susupe and Garapan, Joeten Superstore, DJ's Corner at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, Grand Vrio Resort Shop, Mama Store, Pacific Island's Club Boutiki, I Love Saipan Stores, Pacific Gift Shops, Mariana Resort & Spa Souvenir Shop, and iShop at Kanoa and Fiesta Resorts.

If local farmers are interested in partnering with Mariana Breeze, please call 234-5012 or email marusaipan99@hotmail.com.

Interested vendors looking to promote the product are also welcome to visit the office near Kilili Beach to check out the different flavors and packaging selections.

Burglars strike thrice in Chalan Kiya neighborhood

Burglars broke into a businessman's house in Chalan Kiya on Wednesday morning, the third incident in a three-day period in the neighborhood.

Burglars ransacked the house and even drank chocolate milk and ate rice crackers from the refrigerator, the businessman's daughter Tiffany Yokoyama-Lizama told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

"Items and papers were thrown on the ground and everywhere in my father's house. It's like Typhoon Soudelor came over again!" Yokoyama-Lizama said.

An estimated $4,000 worth of items were stolen.

Among the items stolen were a Napa 12/24 Volt battery charger, a black Toshiba Satellite laptop, black Sony Vaio laptop, Beuchat Marine spear gun, black Fujifilm camera, two underwater Olympus cameras with housing and lens, Sinahi necklace, a 32-inch Sanyo LED flat screen TV, a black snorkel mask and fins, a silver PowerBank, two USB flash dive, external had drive with family photos, Makita skillsaw, Makita jigsaw, Dremel, electric planner, a Kawasaki grinder, and drills.

Yokoyama-Lizama urged anyone who has seen any of the items to call the police.

Yokoyama-Lizama said her father left his one-story semi-concrete three-bedroom house for errands on Wednesday at 7:30am and when he returned at 11:30am, the house was already ransacked.

She said her father called her and the police.

Burglars managed to enter the house by prying open one of the window grills on the storage room of a bedroom located on the side of the house.

Yokoyama-Lizama said neighbors reported that a group of individuals was seen driving around the neighborhood aboard a small red RAV4 vehicle.

She said prior to Wednesday's burglary, a house and a barracks in the area were also burglarized in that three-day period. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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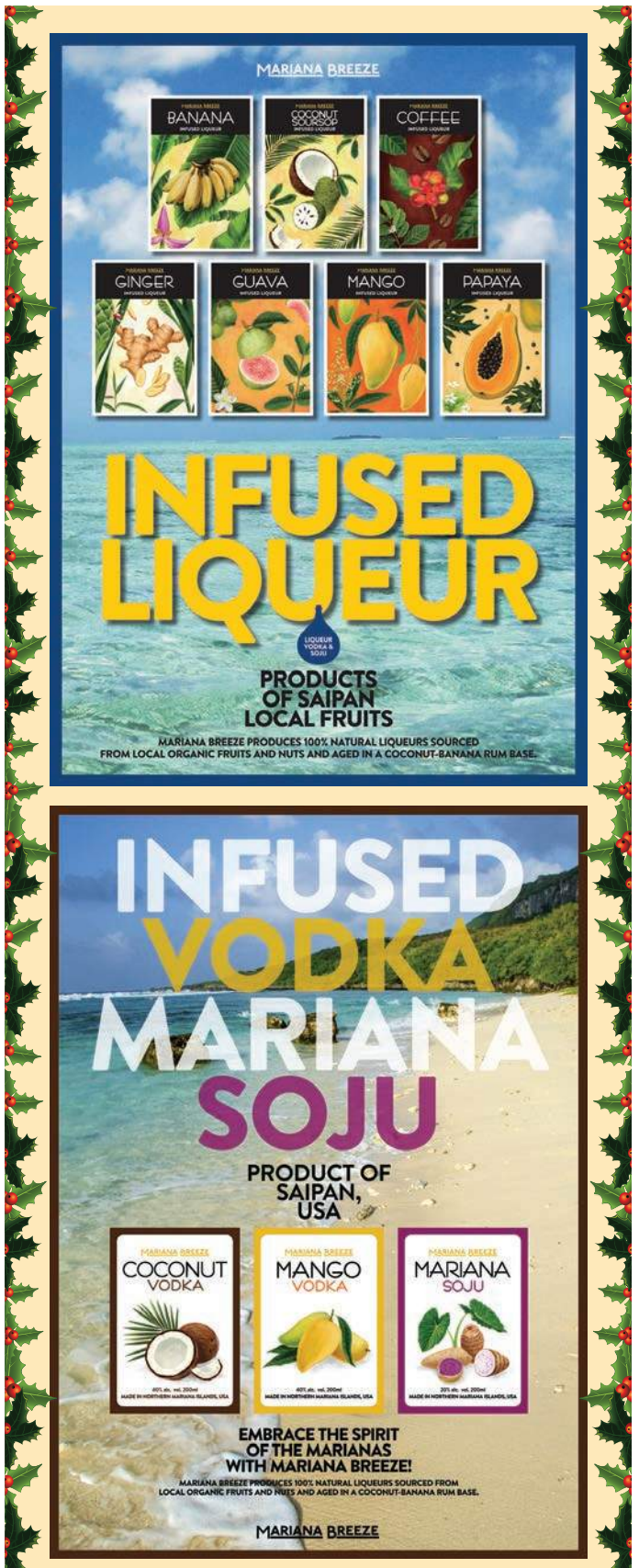
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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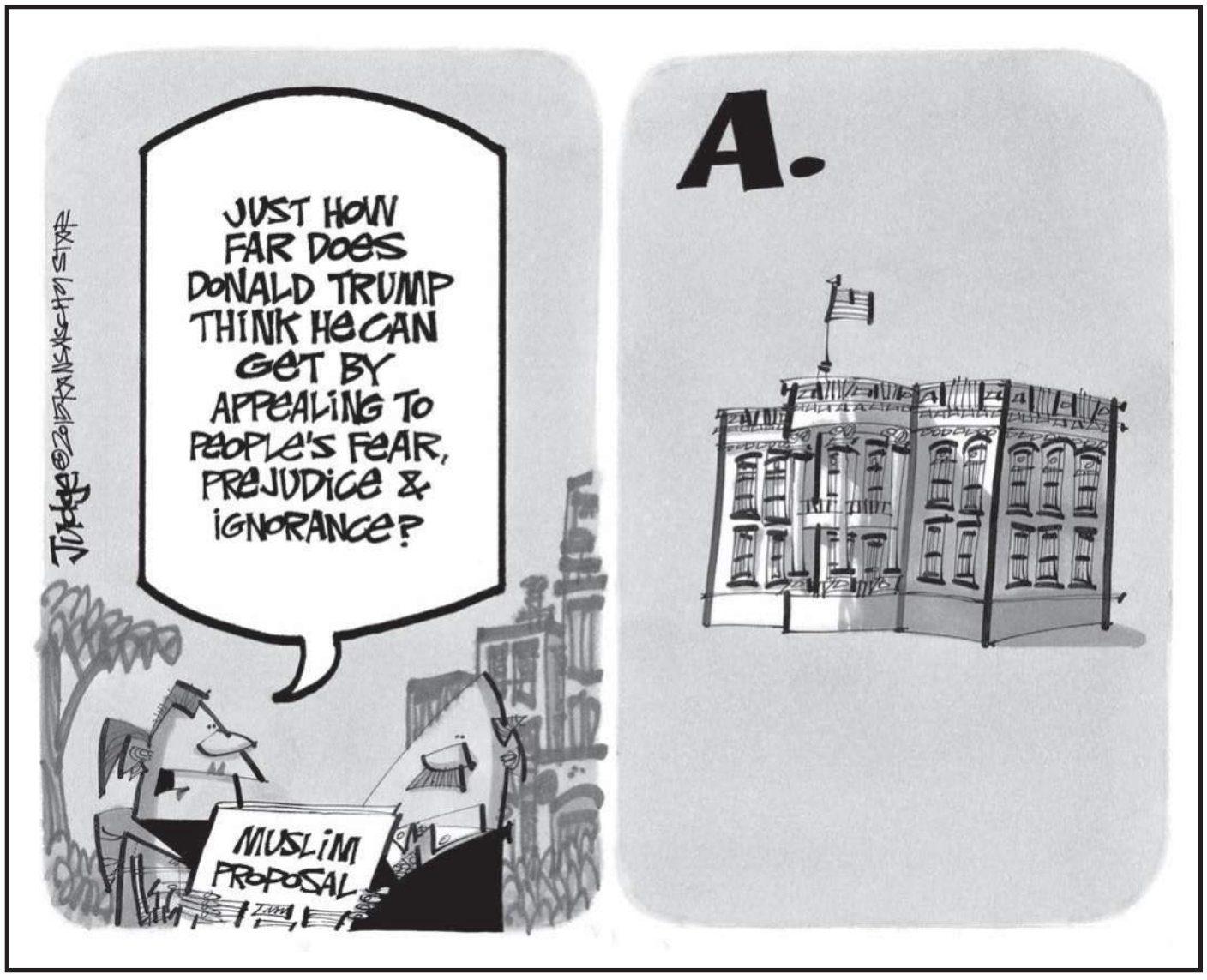


EDITORIAL

As Donald Trump peddles hateful 'shutdown,' House deals with travel security

Donald Trump's response to the terrorist threat, "a total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States," is like a lot of his campaign rhetoric: a visceral, offensive, absurdly simplistic, headline-grabbing take on a real issue.

The idea of a ban on travel by Muslims to the U.S. goes an ugly step further. Blocking people from entering the country based on their religious beliefs is a repugnant rejection of American principles of a free and open society.

Not to mention unconstitutional. Maybe that's why Trump started Tuesday on some clarifications. U.S. citizens who are abroad? OK, they can come back. Muslim heads of state? Yes, they can visit. International athletes? Come and play.

It's still tempting to chalk it all up to spiteful, hateful nonsense. Except the guy keeps leading in those polls of Republican primary voters.

At least it was good to see Republicans and Democrats race each other to excoriate Trump. (Lindsey Graham: "Tell Donald Trump go to hell.")

House Speaker Paul Ryan neatly summed it up: "This is not conservatism. What was proposed yesterday is not what this party stands for. And more importantly, it's not what this country stands for."

So there's Trump's dark fantasy. And then there's reality.

Members of the U.S. House on Tuesday ignored the noise and voted overwhelmingly on legislation to tighten immigration rules. The vote was bipartisan; the measure is logical and constitutional.

The bill, which was taken up after last month's terrorist attacks in Paris, gained more urgency with the murder of 14 people in San Bernardino, Calif. It addresses the U.S. visa waiver program. Under that program, citizens of 38 countries, mostly in Europe, can enter the U.S. for business or tourism without a visa. The bill would require a visa for people who have been in Iraq, Syria, Iran or Sudan since March 1, 2011.

Travelers to those countries, all of which have been linked to terrorist activity, would have to apply for a visa. That would require an in-person interview at a U.S. embassy or consulate. Tightening up that screening process would address one threat raised by the Paris assault. Some of the people who carried out that attack held European passports and could have come to the U.S. with little scrutiny.

The House bill will also remove from the visa waiver program the citizens of countries that don't cooperate with the U.S. in sharing information about terrorism. It will require travelers in the waiver program to have passports with chips that contain biometric data.

This isn't foolproof protection. Nothing will be. But it does address one potential vulnerability. President Barack Obama appears to be on board. A Senate version, likely with more stringent provisions, is in the works. Officials hope reconciled legislation can be attached to a spending bill that needs to pass within days to keep the government operating.

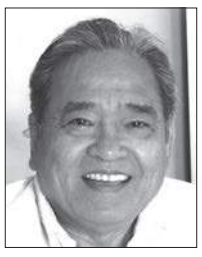
Washington has more to do on homeland security, in the wake of recent attacks directed or inspired by Islamic State. Tashfeen Malik entered the country in 2014 on a fiancee visa program secured by her marriage to her American-born husband, Syed

See TRUMP on Next Page

The Great Pacific garbage patch

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



It was Constitution Day to the CNMI, Immaculate Conception to the religious, and the "day that will live in infamy" to FDR this week. Secretary Stinson remembered that 10-days before Pearl Harbor, FDR longed for Japan to attack so the U.S. can join the war. We had by then cut off Japan's access to fossil fuel through Malacca, and Nippon extending its tentacles through Manchukuo to Shanghai and Nanjing was headed south all the way to Australia.

We keep an eye on the Pacific vortex. There's a western patch just above the Northern Marianas southeast of Japan affected by the Kuhosio current that moves north from Philippines to Taiwan to keep the waters of western Japan warm, also gathers the region's floating trash. The eastern patch that drifts between Hawaii and Baja de California is sludge of plastic and Styrofoam.

South of the polar cap north of the equatorial current up to 50 degrees is the North Pacific Gyre. NOAA's geographical term, oceanographers predicted garbage patches in the late 80s, a great photo op for National Geographic. Five famous gyres are residences of garbage patches around the world.

For "vortex," think air whirlpools or whirlwinds like the ones that paid us a visit Aug. 2 when Soudelor came, named after a fierce Pohnpei legendary chief, accompanied by four spinners. The word "gyre" is a term for a spiral spin. For a picture, think "tornado" in the U.S. southwest, or cyclone in the Bay of Bengal. The word "typhoon" reinforced by the Chinese *tai fung* (big winds) that the Portuguese called the typhoon from the Greek *typhon* and Arabic *tufan* (whirlwind) get us our storm and tempest.

The Great Pacific garbage patch floats marine debris of styrofoams, plastic bottles, and bags, from the West Coast of the U.S. to the East Coast of Asia.

Plastic do not biodegrade at all so they will exist forever. There is photodegradation that tears the plastic into little pieces at the level of microorganisms but the plastic changes only in form, not in substance. It is still the all too familiar plastic. Worst, in its microform, it enters the food chain through seafood organisms ingested as chemical pollutants to add toxicity to the food chain.

Massive deaths among young albatross on at Midway Island of Hawaii's chain are attributed to the ingestion of plastic matter into their system. Uninhabited, the seafood around it meant to bring health to dining are laced with the handiwork of human laboratories that produces and packages foods and containers meant for our ease and comfort. Thanks, but no thanks. We slowly poison ourselves with the chemicals.

We've also altered the way we physically appear. A group picture taken of friends and acquaintances at Marpi indicates that Micronesian obesity is alive and well. A photo of Saipan agency heads, save one who is just jolly rotund, shows cholesterol in abundance. The garbage patch of the Pacific has moved to the non-pacific regions of our bodies. Don't get me wrong. When Roxanne went into her "fat is beautiful" routine, it allowed my primal spouse to have a Hawaiian mu-mu and the body that went with it. She was a twig of a Caucasian community development worker in the Visayas that Caltex featured in one of its in-house publications in the late 70s, turned Hawaiian Mama. Roxanne shed the extra handle around the middle later but my spouse and eldest settled comfortably in their new look without apology.

Our Micronesian women hardly make it on *Elle*'s cover and *Playboy* forsook its brush-enhanced au naturel. Anyway, we are not too enamored with the anorexic look on the ramp walk. We take Micronesia's women direct from Mama's dining table "just the way they are," thank you. They could refine the waddle walk of a duck a bit, and tighten the mooncake form of the physique, which is OK once every lunar cycle, but we're cool. (The descriptions are meant to be graphic; judgment on beauty is in the mind of the beholder!)

We dare not snipe from behind a heavy screen. Expected employ faded after Soudelor; interviews found us "over qualified," so we went on a carbohydrate diet specially when the *kai lan* (Chinese broccoli) and the *kang kong* suddenly moved to the boutique side of the ledger in our rare Subalu market forays. The upside is that in two months, we were 6 lbs lighter. Now, if I can find a way of not losing it from the cheeks and drop it from the mid-section's extra tire, I will be OK.

The Great Pacific garbage patch is a sight we do not see from high in the sky when we fly. I no longer cruise the ocean as the practice has become a province of Hyannis Port bluebloods. Not to worry. The flotsam comes to us through the food we consume, so if you have some tears left on that tear duct, this would be the time to shed it for the planetary and human condition.

In the 1967 movie *The Graduate*, the brand new college grad character played by Dustin Hoffman was told not to forget "plastic," a by-product of fossil fuel. He didn't. Neither did we.

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CRISPR skeeters

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

Ah, the tropics. Warm sunshine. Cold drinks. And, in some places, malaria.

We'll skip the sun and suds today and note that malaria, according to the World Health Organization, caused an estimated 438,000 deaths last year.

So here's a story to note: The MIT Technology Review reported, on Nov. 23, that a scientist named Anthony James at the University of California, Irvine, has created genetically-modified mosquitos that won't pass on malaria.

That's pretty cool, but this is even cooler: The modified skeeters pass the non-malarial trait onto their offspring. So it's a self-sustaining modification. The big promise here is that if these mosquitos were released into the wild they'd go forth, multiply, and start squeezing malaria out of the picture.

Not that we non-scientists have to know this detail, but the mosquitos are merely unwitting agents in the malaria gig. The real culprit is a parasite called plasmodium. It lives in the mosquitos and it will live in you, too, if you're unlucky enough to get bitten.

Any creature that has more syllables than cells is bound to be a real stinker. Plasmodium is a real hall-of-famer there, comprised of just a single cell. This nasty little piece of work was featured in the very fist chapter of my high school biology text, which served as an attention-getter for how the smallest of things can have the biggest of consequences. Such was our introduction to biology.

As for the introduction of the genetically-modified skeeters, into the wild, I mean, well, it hasn't happened yet. I don't know if it will ever happen. Experts are pondering the advisability of man-made tweaks propagating through Mother Nature's domain. The intended consequences are worthy, but what of the unintended ones? I think we can expect to see this story, or similar ones, hitting the news in 2016.

And, in fact, there's a far bigger story behind this story. That's the new technology that has turbo-charged the capability of genetic modifications. This gig isn't limited to mere mosquitos. The gene-editing technology is called "clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats," but you probably guessed that already from the abbreviation, CRISPR.

To the extent that I can follow this, which is to no extent at all, I think that it's some way of playing Legos with genetics, snapping, and unsnapping, specific pieces together and asunder, and allowing you to swipe pieces from your little brother if your set doesn't have them. If anybody has a better grasp on the gig, then feel free to let me know. I never really got beyond the Lego stage of conceptualization in anything.

But, speaking of concepts, if the humble mosquito isn't a worthy enough critter to ponder, consider that CRISPR will allow for the genetic modification of humans, too.

So, what next? I don't know. Maybe we'll hear about miracle cures for diseases. Maybe we'll hear about "designer babies." Maybe we'll hear about both.

Could bio-tech be the next big thing, something on the order of an Internet-scale revolution?

If so, I know I'll miss the call. When I was in high school we also thought we were on the cusp of a brave new world, but all we wound up with was Donkey Kong.

Pat Benatar sang "My Clone Sleeps Alone." Somebody else (I forget who) recorded a ditty about test tube babies, and this song may have been the first, and last, copyrighted work of English that rhymed "utopian" with "Fallopian."

The enthusiasm kept at a low boil for several years. By the time we were out of college, bio-tech mutual funds were the hot thing. This lead my pals and I to another famous pairing of English terms: "long term" and "capital loss."

Oh, I'm sure that a lot of progress was made in those days, but it wasn't the imminent sci-fi fantasy so many people expected. Maybe things will be different this time around.

If so, I can just imagine a couple of scientists calling each other:

"Dude, I just invented a malaria-resistant mosquito."

"That's nothing. I just invented a malaria-resistant human. Runs the 100-yard dash in 3 seconds, benches 425 lbs, gets 800 on the math SATs, needs only two minutes of sleep a year, drinks salt water, excretes jasmine tea, and only turns right on red after coming to a complete stop."

"Wowzer. What gender?"

"It's a Upsilon-Twelve with Gamma-Nucleic receptors."

"Nice. How'd you array the peptides?"

"With a bicuspid RNA splice, of course. Goes together like, well, like--"

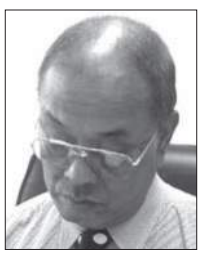
"Like Legos?"

"Yeah. Exactly. Like Legos."

Denying bankruptcy

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



The NMI is bankrupt! Understandably, the issue is shielded in evasion or obfuscation or both for political reasons. The spin-doctors are fearfully employing diversionary tactics to hide the truth that runs contrary to the now empty mantra of "solutions driven leadership" of a year ago.

It looks clever and perhaps their suspect financial literacy embraces superficial understanding of the implications of bankruptcy. It places sinking the standard of living to below abject poverty NMI-wide, lack of funds for the court-adjudicated retirement pension, healthcare and education.

You could do the math to get to the simple truth: CUC owes CDA $50 million; agencies owed CUC $30 million while the NMI owes the NMI Retirement Fund some $789 million in unfunded liability. Is this why it is now eyeing raid of MPLT funds?

Now, if you're an employee is there a guarantee you'd get your check six months or a year from now? Take it up with your bosses for real time answers!

The attitude of inconsequence in the treatment of this issue is the perfect recipe for real time fiscal crisis shortly. It would spread and adversely affect every household Marianas-wide. Ignoring it isn't going to last given that the dirt floor of bankruptcy has started crumbling.

Is it hard admitting that this government is flat broke or bankrupt? There's no doubt that villagers everywhere sense it in the thick salty air of poverty at home. Or do you clandestinely blame it on self-created poverty?

The scarcity of local funds must not be muted in self-denial. It's better to admit it now followed by due diligence to spur growth that would in turn increase revenue generation.

■■■

Critical Review: Throughout the holiday season we should spend quiet time to critically review how issues have taken on a vicious twist sending the archipelago into an irreversible bankruptcy. The longer it is ignored the wider and deeper our fiscal hole would be.

It isn't the sturdy pile of bankruptcy that I find perplexing and pathetic as much as the reaction of the powers that treat it as inconsequence. Appalling the loose attitude. We shall see the slam of fiscal mega tsunami shortly. Quiz: what would they do?

Sure, we could blame everyone else for the deepening mess at home. But leave a larger room for admission by less than honest politicians that you did it to your people!

■■■

Investment Exodus: Understandably, a major contributing factor to the fiscal crisis is the decision by major Japanese investors to take an exodus in recent past. It instantly translated into a $5-7 billion hole in the repatriation of money that used to be recycled locally. I find this decision condescending in that it never took into account the impact or the human side to it like villagers who suffer from it all ignorant of the politics of the decision.

Moreover, this decision is a denigration of our dignity and fate that doesn't seem to matter to Nippon investors who left. Their apparent departure must have been triggered by an issue hailing from within the NMI I can't place for now.

Was it the decision to rein-in Chinese investors started by impeached and former governor Benigno R. Fitial that slammed the floodgates open? If this query has truth to it, please understand our ignorance in terms of world history. Moreover, the Chamorros have yet to even resolve where exactly did it come from. And you expect us to know and understand your political history?

At any rate, it's easy to cripple the NMI by simply pulling the rug of investments from under our feet. Amidst the impositions how do we rebuild to pre-exodus level? I know that the NMI has had a history of policy instability that seems to have mushroomed in recent past. But Nippon investors should have shoved aside polite niceties by simply stating their case.

Internally, it's a huge concern most of the elected elite hasn't come to grasp with. No wonder we haven't even come to terms with our cultural identity.

■■■

Investors probe landscape: In simple terms, an investor looks at the entire system of government here or basic infrastructure to size up its planned investment. It probes education, the legal system, and policy formulation to ensure stability. Policy stability is uppermost on its list to gauge future return of investments.

For instance, if a firm in technology wishes to move into the NMI it would research how many technology and computer science students graduate from NMC, annually. Otherwise, it would be foolhardy establishing a firm that is handicapped by the lack of competent employees. Do you see why I'm advocating defining our educational goals?

The investor also has his own intelligence people who probe the depth of issues the elected elite takes up and whether we know our materials before enacting them into law. If not, then it's another point against instilling policy stability. In brief, investors are usually equipped with fully poised experts to review the posture of the NMI versus their plans. Could we say the same of ourselves?

Unless we resolutely resolve to instill stability in the policies of the NMI nothing much would happen to lure new batch of investments capable of establishing jobs for our people. The concept is known as "wealth and jobs creation." Our ability to shift boat in midstream is well known beyond our shores. It hasn't sit well with investors. This has got to change forthwith!

I'm not sure where do we begin rebuilding policy stability. It's an issue though that we can't sleepwalk given the persistent reduction of revenues even before the Soudelor disaster.

■■■

Exclusionary Policy: We've watched in quietude the loss of participation in the tourism industry. Things were fine up until 1977 when we were completely alienated and emasculated. We're now at a juncture when this difficult issue must be addressed forthwith. Can't afford another 40 years as cogs in an industry that cleverly did everything to our exclusion!

TRUMP

From Page 14

Rizwan Farook. Their elaborate preparations for the assault in San Bernardino went undetected.

More than half the nation's governors are demanding that the Obama administration pause the acceptance of Syrian refugees to the U.S. pending a review of their screening.

There are serious, legitimate questions about U.S. security.

And then there's Donald Trump.

© Chicago Tribune

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly sunny and breezy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
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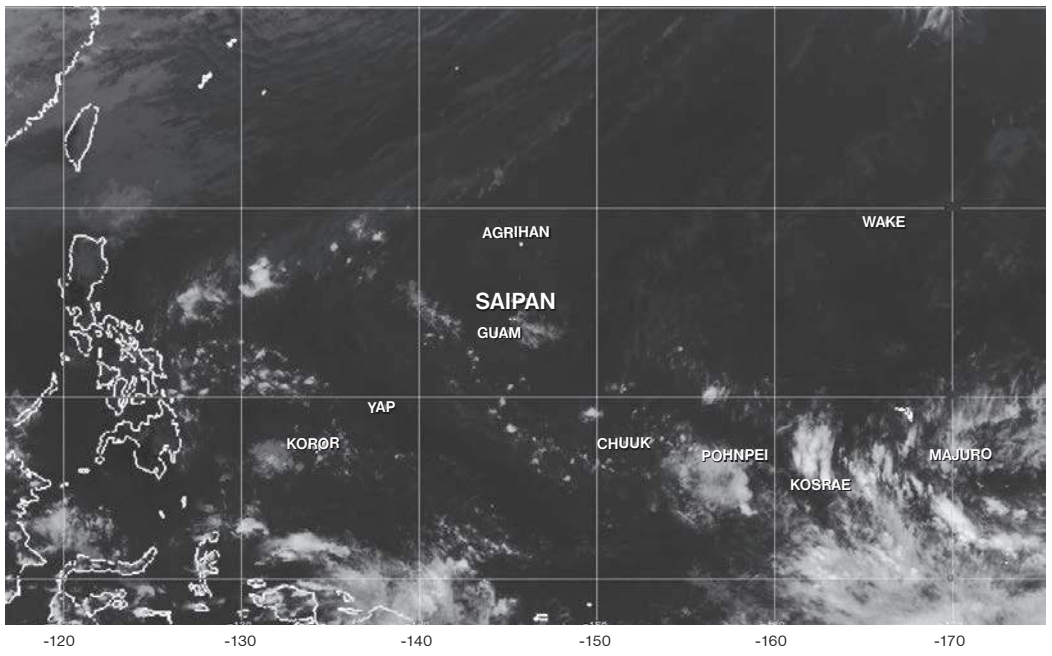
Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2015

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front stretches southwestward from 25N168E to 21N155E then continues westward as a shear line to near 22N136E. Cloudiness and patchy showers are occurring near Minami Tori Shima along and up to 200 miles north of this boundary. A near-equatorial trough curves northeastward from 4N130E to a tropical disturbance centered southeast of Yap near 6N140E. Scattered showers and few thunderstorms are present mainly northeast of the disturbance within an area bounded by a line from 6N139E to 12N146E to 3N150E back to 6N139E. Another band of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms is found south of Koror and Yap within 80 miles of a line from 5N130E to 4N135E to 5N139E. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers north of Chuuk state and east of the Marianas between 13N and 17N from 148E to 157E. A weak tropical disturbance centered southeast of Kosrae near 3N168E is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between Kosrae and the Marshall Islands between the equator and 8N from 160E to 171E. Low-level convergence northeast of the disturbance is also producing scattered showers east of Kwajalein within 60 miles of a line from 9N169E to 9N172E to 8N176E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲86	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79

Around the Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲70	▼62
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲41	▼2Z
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲71	▼65
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼73
London	Showers	▲50	▼40
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼51
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲91	▼75
Melbourne	Showers	▲68	▼51
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	▲79	▼68
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲58	▼48
Osaka	Rain	▲66	▼49
Paris	Cloudy	▲53	▼47
Pusan	Showers	▲54	▼40
Rome	Sunny	▲59	▼41
Salem	Thundershowers	▲49	▼42
San Francisco	Showers	▲60	▼50
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲53	▼29
Tokyo	Rain	▲69	▼49
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲62	▼44

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:32 AM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.3 Feet
8:22 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
1:49 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
6:50 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:32 AM	5:47 PM
Saturday	6:33 AM	5:48 PM
Sunday	6:34 AM	5:48 PM
Monday	6:34 AM	5:48 PM
Tuesday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:02 AM	5:45 PM
Saturday	6:55 AM	6:37 PM
Sunday	7:48 AM	7:31 PM
Monday	8:40 AM	8:26 PM
Tuesday	9:30 AM	9:22 PM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 4, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5072/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2924/159	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

$1.63B for BSI but what about us!

I'm sure the average reader viewed the news of BSI earning 1.63 billion in one month as being great for the CNMI. But I'm sure the people of the CNMI will agree with me that it is more important for the people to know our share of all these millions. The casino commission may have felt that they were doing their job by merely "reporting" what BSI made but for me and others they did not earn their money by just reporting. They are being paid a lot of money and we need them to do the work for us, which is to: 1. Do their work to monitor and confirm for us how much BSI made and not wait for BSI to tell us through the Hong Kong Stock Exchange because the commission is giving us BSI's numbers not theirs; 2. Where is the formula for determining the average cost of BSI's daily operations and what kind of in-depth monitoring and investigating is the commission doing to insure these numbers are accurate—simply, does the casino commission's numbers jive with BSI's numbers; 3. Finally, the casino commission owes it to the people of the CNMI who pay their salary to tell us how much the CNMI earned from the $1.63 billion in November.

I am not complaining but offering constructive criticism and I do want to thank the commission executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero for sharing BSI's reported earnings. He also explained that the $1.63 billion was not profits only what was collected. However, if the casino commission truly wants the community to be supportive of the casino and the commission they need to show they are earning their pay by establishing a formula that will allow the commission to determine or estimate how much of BSI's collections go to expenses and how much is profit and how much the CNMI earned because we don't know if we are being cheated or not from a report that only states what was taken in which is require for the Business Gross Receipt tax (BGR). So what about the (PSP) the People's Share of Profits beyond the BGR or do we have to make it a law to get this monthly information.

The people of the CNMI should know every month how much they made from the casino almost to the penny. I am not against the casino but I am for the casino and the governing casino commission being held more accountable and transparent in revealing the full effects of BSI's operations and not just reporting to us what BSI is telling them. BSI does not work for the people of the CNMI so we need a commission that not only reports BSI's numbers but the numbers for the people—it is just that simple. The commission members make too much money to only be reporting BSI's numbers and I'm sure the people of the CNMI have more expectations of the commission than the sharing of BSI's report, which could be done by a single secretary.

Do we have to wait until the feds tell us we are being cheated, which is the usual outcome with this kind of issues when local governments fail at doing their job? The best thing the casino commission can do at this point is to do the work to tell us how much BSI and the CNMI made to justify your work because I'm sure the commission members will truly be much more appreciated for doing their job.

Ambrose M Bennett
Kagman

Vague and unconvincing

I do not like the Dec. 8, 2015 *Saipan Tribune* opinion piece "A few points of clarification" produced by Craig Whelden, executive director of Marine Corps Forces Pacific because it is vague and unconvincing.

To illustrate my point, Craig Whelden states in his op-ed that "Over $900 million has been identified for the CNMI (on construction projects and for leasing on Tinian and Pagan). The government of Japan will fund over $300 million on Tinian." What precisely does Mr. Whelden mean by this claim? Who, for example, is doing the "identifying" and what should islanders make of this "identification?"

Second, Craig Whelden writes in his op-ed that "We are exploring the potential for joint use projects in the CNMI that benefit both parties." What does this mean? Who is referenced by use of the term "we" and what precisely does he mean by "joint use" and "benefit?" Is joint use, for example, purely a military endeavor or does it also include para-military forces and allied military and para-military forces or something else?

Mr. Whelden then goes on to state that, "Ultimately our intent is to arrive at solutions that achieve mutually beneficial and sustainable growth, compatible/complementary presence, and shared interests with the people of CNMI." This statement is vague, filled with passive tense phrases, and does nothing to assuage islander concerns.

Craig Whelden then goes on to state that…"we listened during the public comment period, we will be conducting additional studies in a number of areas of concern identified by the people of the CNMI and federal agencies. I will come to CNMI in early 2016 to brief the governor on the way forward." This statement is also vague and doesn't say much of anything.

The fact that the military is "listening" to islander concerns and comments during a public comment period means little because "listening" is not the same as "understanding" and unless Craig Whelden both listens and understands what is being said, then the statements in his op-ed are not very useful and not very meaningful.

I would argue that not only should the military listen and understand what islanders are saying formally and informally, but also come to the conversation table with the view of having more complete dialogue and question and answer events as opposed to having people like Mr. Whelden fly to Saipan to "brief the governor" which represents yet another vague comment.

I do agree with Craig Whelden's statement that there is "a long way to go before reaching a Record of Decision on the CJMT EIS," but I think it is incorrect to suggest that "all in the CNMI [should continue]… to work with the military as we continue to close gaps that might exist between us and find common ground that benefits all."

In my opinion I do not think it is possible to prevent substantial permanent environmental and cultural damage to both Tinian and Pagan if the military gets its way.

As a next step recommendation, I do think that Craig Whelden would generate more credibility and trust with islanders if he publicly stated that the environment and the Chamorro culture on Pagan and Tinian will be permanently damaged and destroyed and that risks to islander human health and social system fabrics will be damaged or broken from proposed military activities.

I also do not think that it is the responsibility of islanders to necessarily work with the military because many islanders have already expressed disapproval of proposed military activities because of the environmental and cultural injury, damage, and destruction that proposed military activities will bring to our island chain.

I think Craig Whelden's frame of mind needs to change and I think the military needs to find ways to further incentivize islanders to come to the negotiating table because Chamorros have already given more than enough to the national security of the United States over the past several decades and continue to do so.

Rick Perez
Hanover, NH

JKPL to mark 24th year with slew of activities

The community is invited to celebrate the 24th anniversary of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library on Dec. 19, from 9am to 4pm.

Several events have been planned throughout the month of December, including raffle ticket giveaways, a Christmas decoration contest, local author presentations, volunteer community presentations, Saturday read-louds, Motheread Fatheread classes adult courses and a children's story exploring class, and a Free Fitness Half-Hour.

The fitness class features the popular 21 Day Fix Program on select days (Dec. 15, 17, 22, 24, 29, and 31 from 5:15pm to 5:45pm). Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable workout clothing, proper shoes, and bring a small towel and bottled water.

The Motheread Fatheread adult course and children's Story Exploring Class will be held at the Children of Our Homeland Library on Dec. 14 and 28 from 5pm to 6pm for the month of December. The classes run every Monday and will continue through the end of January 2016.

On Dec. 16, Pacifica Insurance will be hosting a Christmas craft activity in the Children of Our Homeland Library from 3pm to 3:30pm. The craft will feature festive friendship bracelets.

Also on Dec. 16, Mami Ikeda and the team from CNMI C.O.R.E. is scheduled to present from 5pm to 5:30pm in the main lobby of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. This will be an informational session. Come learn about volunteer opportunities and experiences in the field of disaster recovery in post-Soudelor Saipan.

On Dec., 18, Keith Murdock, visiting board member of the Rockland Astronomy Club of New York, will deliver a free astronomy presentation titled "The Birth and Death of the Solar System" in the Pacific Room at 4:30pm. The lecture will last approximately one hour and will allow for questions and answers at the end. The material is not highly technical and is understandable to anyone who can appreciate a science documentary on NOVA or the Discovery Channel.

On Dec. 19, the library will be raffling prizes to patrons throughout the day. Raffle tickets are available at the Front Circulation Desk beginning early December; inquire with front desk staff on how to earn more chances to win.

Also on Dec. 19, there will be a special read-aloud in the Children of Our Homeland Library by the Let's Move Marianas Coalition and Team Y.E.A.H. at 10am, as well as a tree planting project to replace the fallen trees that were damaged by Typhoon Soudelor last Aug. 2. The project, sponsored by CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources-Forestry Division and Best Sunshine International, Ltd. is for beautification and environmental protection.

At 1pm, there will be a free family movie presentation in the Children of Our Homeland Library.

Several local authors will be conducting 30-minute book presentations throughout the day on Dec. 19. The presentations include a short question and answer session at the end of the talk. The authors will be available for autographs; copies of their books will also be made available for purchase.

This library is an essential part of the community. Since its inception in 1991, patrons have used the library for a variety of reasons including checking email, surfing the internet, job hunting, basic computer classes, live homework help, after-school programs, earning volunteer hours and paid work experience, learning English as a second language, learning to play the ukulele, attending a club or professional meeting, enjoying a free movie, seminar, or public hearing, or just finding a good book.

Thanks to the contributions of two prominent local businessmen, Jose Camacho Tenorio and Manuel Seman Villagomez, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library opened its doors on Dec. 19, 1991. Public Law 7-18 established the mission of the library as the following:

■ Cheerfully assist the general public in obtaining accurate and up-to-date information as well as classic or popular fiction, nonfiction and reference books, magazines and materials in printed, multi-media and digital formats.

■ Maintain and expand traditional library services to the readers and nonreaders of all ages. Provide special emphasis on Children's and Youth collections, services and programs.

■ Reach out to groups, classes, and individuals who have not traditionally used public library services. Seek out means to serve the underserved throughout all islands of the Commonwealth.

■ Pragmatically use computer and related technology to reduce the inherent isolation of island societies and establish the library as a window to the outside world.

■ Avoid obsolescence, anticipate trends, and create new models of public access as technology evolves. Take advantage of unexpected breakthroughs as well as changes in technology and other library services.

■ Deliver innovative services that anticipate the needs of the library's users.

■ Collaborate with the Federal Government, other agencies, organizations and businesses to prudently improve services or resources for the public.

■ Promote flexible and responsive administrative structures, procedures and measures in internal and external relations with all governmental entities.

■ Provide access to information, knowledge and material in support of educational, entrepreneurial, cultural, research, and recreational activities.

For more information on any of these activities, call 235-7322/16/29. ***(JKPL)***

2 villages to have temporary water service interruption

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in three of Saipan's southern villages will experience a temporary service interruption as part of an ongoing federally funded waterline improvement project.

On Monday, Dec. 14, CUC's contractor, RNV Construction, will begin the disconnection and abandonment of the existing 8-inch asbestos concrete pipe (ACP) as part of the San Vicente Service Area Extension Project, funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

This phase of the project is in preparation for the waterline upgrade that will improve system pressure and create a more reliable water system.

CUC will limit the area affected by the nine-hour outage to customers along Chalan Tun Herman Pan (Airport Road) between Exploring Drive and Chalan Monsignor Martinez, as well as customers along Chalan Monsignor Guerrero from Tun Herman Pan to the NMC traffic signal, and along Chalan Monsignor Martinez from Chalan Monsignor Guerrero to Talapia Lane from 8am to 5pm.

For more information, visit CUC's website www.cucgov.org or contact the CUC Customer Call Center at 664-4CUC (664-4282).

CUC is a non-profit autonomous agency of the CNMI government. The utility provides electric power, water and wastewater services to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. ***(CUC)***

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More information and applications can be found at www.sablan.house.gov, or by calling 670-323-2647 in Saipan, 532-2647 in Rota, or 433-2647 in Tinian. Applications are due December 11, 2015.
Paid for with official funds authorized by the U.S. House of Representatives.

Naval Base Guam conducts tsunami exercise

SANTA RITA, Guam—A rush of panic and worry set in as the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC) message hit the networks just before 6am warning of a pending tsunami about to hit Guam in three hours or less. Luckily for Naval Base Guam, the message had the words "EXERCISE, EXERCISE, EXERCISE" pasted at the top.

During the exercise, tenant commands and all areas affected by a mock tsunami, with a 12-foot wave pending impact on NBG in three hours, were evacuated to higher ground. The scenario began with a warning message sent from the PTWC that an earthquake of 8.9 magnitude struck near the Aleutian Trench off of Alaska, with a significant wave height surging through the Pacific Ocean. Guam, among several other key Pacific islands, was notified of the pending tsunami.

The earthquake was later evaluated and upgraded to a 9.3 magnitude earthquake, with a huge, destructive ripple effect of rushing water away from the center of the earthquake.

Tsunami are waves caused by sudden movement of the ocean due to earthquakes, landslides on the sea floor, land slumping into the ocean, major volcanic eruptions or large meteorite impacts, according to CWarn.org. Most tsunami are caused by large earthquakes at the seafloor, when large slabs of rock are forced to move past each other suddenly causing the overlying water to move. The resulting wave moves outwards and away from this event, causing massive flooding in an instant.

Many will remember what happened on March 11, 2011, when a 9.0 magnitude earthquake off the Pacific coast of Japan caused a tsunami with the highest wave height of 133 feet. About 18,550 people were confirmed killed or missing. The tallest recorded tsunami—or "megatsunami—wave height was measured at 1,720 feet in Lituya Bay, Alaska, in 1958 (according to the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point).

A large magnitude earthquake has great potential to generate a massive destructive tsunami that can strike coastlines near the epicenter within minutes and more distant coastlines within hours. The PTWC is key to providing vital data to monitor sea level data and estimate the severity of the threat.

The four-hour tsunami exercise gave NBG headquarters, emergency management operations and its tenant commands a chance to exercise command and control capabilities in response to a natural disaster. The often-coined phrase, "train as you fight," was used to go through the movements and methods of accountability, timely reporting and physical evacuation of buildings to respective assembly areas, as well as a Continuity of Operations (COOP) site where emergency management professionals with the Incident Management Team (IMT) of NBG headquarters set up an alternate location to operate from higher ground.

According to Carlos Griffin, NBG Installation Training Officer, this was an important exercise to practice with the focus and effort as if the incident were really happening.

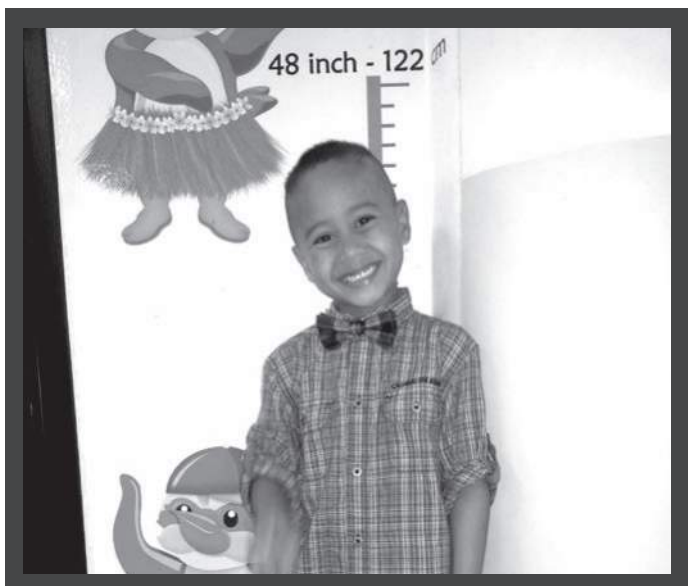
"We conduct these exercises to prepare for the real thing," he said. Everyone must have a 'muscle memory' for these types of incidents so we can exercise our evacuation and accountability procedures with the main purpose of saving lives. This requires an orderly, organized, well-planned and well-rehearsed evacuation—a time-phased evacuation with timely reporting and posted warnings as well as Giant Voice announcements, deconfliction with various agencies and accountability reporting to the COOP site."

Naval Base Guam is divided into four evacuation zones—A, B, C and D—based on proximity and height above sea level. An organized zone-by-zone evacuation enables a free flow of traffic and congestion is avoided. NBG hit all of its timelines for the exercise, and the COOP site got very busy with people working hard to ensure no one was left behind.

Master at Arms Chief (SW) Christopher Hammett, the Anti-terrorism Officer for NBG, just happened to be NBG's Command Duty Officer for the day.

"The biggest responsibility as CDO during the time of a tsunami is to maintain the proper flow of communication to our tenant commands," said Hammett. "Everyone needs to know the proper reporting procedures and lines of communication so that I can provide an accurate account of everything that takes place, respond to areas of concern and be the center point for briefing the commander."

Although no one wants to have to react to a real tsunami, NBG is prepared. ***(PR)***



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 7th birthday to my handsome, loving son Zion Stone Lifoifoi Camacho who is celebrating his special day today. May you live a long, happy, and healthy life. I love you always. Love, mommy

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Following Information/Documents Required
Property Map/As Built Map/ Total Land Area
If available for existing building showing
exact location & building details
Owner Title Information
Owner Asking Price

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-16-002

Typhoon Soudelor Disaster Recovery Project - CUC Central Warehouse Repairs

The Office of the Executive Director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for repairs at CUC Central Warehouse in Lower Base, Saipan. As this project is time sensitive, contractors shall ensure that they have a good understanding of the project prior to making their bid proposal to avoid protracted contract discussion that will result in a successful expedited contract award to the selected Offeror.

The Scope of Work and Solicitation Package will be emailed upon request, by CUC Procurement & Supply Office from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except on government observed holidays, **until December 15, 2015**. Prospective proponents for this RFP must register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division no later than 2:00 p.m. on December 15, 2015 in order to be considered.

A **mandatory Pre-proposal Conference** will be conducted at the Warehouse Building in Lower Base, Saipan on **December 15, 2015 at 10:00 a.m., ChST.** Immediately after the conference, Site Visits to Warehouse facility will be arranged. Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC Central Warehouse Repairs, CUC-RFP-16-002" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **December 31, 2015 at 10:00 AM,** local time. Submissions, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the RFP. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A Proposal Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. *A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying

labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Proponents are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proponents due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of proponents' preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Proponents shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proponents.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. local time on **December 21, 2015,** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, CUC P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950 via email: manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Assistant, Procurement Division via email: marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective proposers who have registered for the solicitation with CUC procurement division.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Bid in the interest of the Corporation. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

JOHN RIEGEL
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

GMS students continue to excel at forensic tilt

Green Meadow School hosted and served as the venue for the 3rd Primary Grade Forensic Competition last Dec. 5, 2015. GMS administration expresses its gratitude to the organizers of the event for the opportunity of being a part of this year's competition. Out of the many private and public school students who participated in the event, the Falcons once again showed their prowess in the forensic competition.

Although busy practicing for their upcoming musical play that will be staged at the Pedro P. Tenoiro Multi-Purpose Center, in making decorations for the Christmas Tree in Paseo de Marianas, and in getting ready for their Christmas program, GMS students and teachers still managed to squeeze-in time to practice for the PGFC. The effort and time they exerted were not wasted. Congratulations to all the GMS competitors and winners and thanks to teachers/coaches. The school appreciates the support of parents and friends.

Here is the list of winners for each division:

2-5 Division

■ 1st Place in Choral Speaking - Samantha Gabrielle R. Flores, Christian Bhert Daniel, Christian Ted A. Pamintuan, Leunyce Regalado, Angeline Faith Cacdac (5th grade)

■ 1st Place in Reader's Forum Masters' A -Angel Manalo (3rd Grade)

■ 1st Place in Reader's Forum Masters' C – Josh Coloma (4th Grade)

■ 3rd Place in Reader's Forum Masters' A – John Cavinta (3rd Grade)

■ 3rd Place in Impromptu A -Jeremiah Alfred – 4th Grade

■ 3rd Place in Choral Speaking – Cloe Ferlyn S. Lagmay, Raeka Shereen Lantin, Jazmyn Phoeme Lopez, Iyana San Nicolas (5th grade)

■ 4th Place in Reader's Forum Masters' A -Raiden Jay Roquelara (3rd Grade)

■ 5th Place in Reader's Forum A – Chris Vecina – (3rd Grade)

■ 5th Place in Humorous Interpretation-Prince Christopher Manalo (5th Grade)

■ 5th Place in Choral Speaking A – John Cavinta, Carmelo Guiller Banzagale, Raiden Jay Roquelara, Buien joseph Din, Santino Malonzo (3rd grade)

K- 2 Division

■ 1st Place in DUO A -Isabella Mallari & Rhett Garth Agbayani (K-5) (CK)

■ 1st Place in Impromptu D-Nelisa Nicole Acaba – K-5 (CK)

■ 2nd Place in Impromptu D -Jacqueline Cepeda – K-5 (CK)

■ 2nd Place in Choral Speaking A – Nelisa Nicole Acaba, Jacqueline Cepeda, Alexia Rubia, Marvie Angelique Llaga, Isabella Mallari (K-5) (CK)

■ 4th Place in Choral Speaking-Faith Candice Lumanlan, Ethan O. Manglona, Kian Andrei Estolas, Rhett Garth Agbayani (K-5) (CK)

■ 4th Place in Reader's Forum Master's C – Carlos Chutin (2nd Grade)

■ 4th Place in Impromptu D-Gaius Luther B. Ranada – (K-5) Gualo Rai

■ 5th Place in Dramatic Interpretation A-Clayment Dizon – (1st Grade) ***(PR)***

All set for T Galleria Guam by DFS Festival of Trees

»Student Competition Themed for FestPac 2016

With less than 165 days until the 12th Festival of Pacific Arts, T Galleria Guam by DFS and most of the island's elementary schools are artfully utilizing the 3rd Annual Festival of Trees to excite residents about the rich cultures that will be represented on Guam during FestPac 2016.

The FestPac Organizing Committee is proud to announce the official opening of the FestPac themed T Galleria Festival of Trees 2015 competition. Twenty-seven trees in the festival represents the 27 visiting nations at FestPac 2016, which will be held on Guam from May 22 to June 4. Elementary school students from 27 competing schools from around the island selected their visiting nations, conducted research on the countries' arts and culture, and specially designed and hand crafted each set of ornaments. The 28th tree, the Guam tree, was designed by the DFS children. A total of 1,400 handmade ornaments and decorations adorn the trees.

"For weeks, our fourth grade students researched and learned about their country, which is Palau, as part of their social studies, language arts and art, curriculum," said Daisy Ramirez, principal of Inarajan Elementary. "It was an eye-opener for them, and it's a part of history that the students will carry forward. They're really looking forward to FestPac."

All 28 trees are currently on display at the Festival of Trees Forest located inside T Galleria near the Prada, Loewe and Fendi boutiques.

"We intentionally used the avenue of the Festival of Trees to create awareness for FestPac 2016 so our residents can understand what the festival is all about," said Francis Guerrero, Senior Manager, Local Buyer for DFS. "After you see the children's work in these 27 trees, it will be hard to decide a favorite. We are very proud of the work that they did."

Voting is ongoing through Dec. 20, and DFS and the FestPac Organizing Committee invite the public to bring their families to enjoy the holiday festival and to cast their votes. Winners will be announced at a special awards ceremony on Dec. 27 at DFS, which the public is also invited to attend.

The competition is exciting and fierce as the first place winner will receive $2,000, second and third place winners will receive $1,000, and fourth and fifth place winners will receive $500 each. Every school will receive a $200 for their participation.

"Be sure to post your photos with the hashtag #dfsfestivaloftrees to get the word out," Guerrero added.

"I want to thank DFS, the schools and the community for all the work that went into this festival. This event combines everything that Festpac is about," said Nate Denight, FestPac Organizing Committee Chairperson and General Manager of Guam Visitors Bureau. "The Festival of the Pacific Arts 2016 is about sharing our culture and traditions in the Pacific. No one would be able to travel to all 27 island nations in their lifetime. Next year, only on Guam can you experience all 27 nations in one place. This is a once-in-a-generation event, and this is a great learning opportunity for our children." ***(PR)***

BOH SUPPORTS FAMILY LITERACY CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Bank of Hawaii donated $10,000 to the Northern Marianas Humanities Council to support the council's Motheread/Fatheread program. In addition to the normal program curricula, Motheread staff are partnering with Bank of Hawaii to offer a "financial literacy" component to provide participants with the basics of budgeting, credit, and banking. Pictured from left are Beth Demapan, Motheread assistant coordinator; Viola Deleon Guerrero, Motheread coordinator; Rose Sumor, BOH Island Manager; Scott Russell, council executive director; Hobbs Lowson, BOH West Pacific regional manager; and Scott Fuji, BOH vice president and CRA officer.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CBP/TSA IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT PROJECT NO. CPA-TA-001-16

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for the project onsite assessment and survey and preparation of design with plans and specifications to include construction of processing booths, office and restroom improvements and expansion of the Federal Inspection Services (FIS) area, installation of counters and in-line baggage system for TSA processing and operations, including office space, inspections areas, and other miscellaneous work to complete the project at the Tinian International Airport, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by CPA. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, December 11, 2015, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Overall A/E design experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island – (25 points);
2. A/E Design experience related to airport projects – (25 points);
3. Level of proficiency in performing A/E services promptly; and level of experience with the FAA and AIP grants – (15 points);
4. The general reputation of the Consultant in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the Consultant's professional integrity and competence – (15 points);
5. Capacity to accomplish the work within the contract time - (10 points); and
6. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal – (10 points).

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, DECEMBER 28, 2015.** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

All responses to this RFQ shall take into account any and all travel costs and taxes that will be charged to the consultant awarded an agreement for this project, including excise tax.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:
Ms. MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ **JOSE R. LIFOIFOI**
Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: November 20, 2015

Tinian International Airport
Car Rental Concessions
CPA-RFP-006-16

Request for Proposals

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting proposals for the award of four (4) Rental Car Concessions at the Tinian International Airport.

Proposal packages can be obtained beginning November 3, 2015 at the CPA Administration Office, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport at a fee of $50.00 per package.

Proposals must be addressed to the Executive Director, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and received by the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) on **December 11, 2015**, by or **before 12:00 p.m.**, in order to be considered for the award. All proposals will be publicly opened on December 11, 2015, at 3:00 p.m., at the CPA Conference Room.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject proposals in accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations.

MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Executive Director

Benjamin Taisacan Manglona
International Airport
CPA-RFP-007-16

Request for Proposals

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting proposals for the award of two (2) Rental Car Concessions at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.

Proposal packages can be obtained beginning November 3, 2015 at the CPA Administration Office, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport at a fee of $50.00 per package.

Proposals must be addressed to the Executive Director, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and received by the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) on **December 11, 2015**, by or **before 12:00 p.m.**, in order to be considered for the award. All proposals will be publicly opened on December 11, 2015, at 3:00 p.m., at the CPA Conference Room.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject proposals in accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations.

MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Executive Director

Business

Japanese cars do best in insurance industry safety rankings

DETROIT (AP)—Japanese brands dominate the insurance industry's rankings of the safest vehicles for the 2016 model year.

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety said Thursday that 48 vehicles earned its highest rating of "Top Safety Pick Plus." That's up from 33 a year ago.

Toyota, Honda and Subaru had the most winners, with 23 combined. Volkswagen and its luxury brand, Audi, had seven winners. Volvo, Hyundai and Mazda each had multiple winners. The Chrysler 200 was the only domestic car to earn the designation.

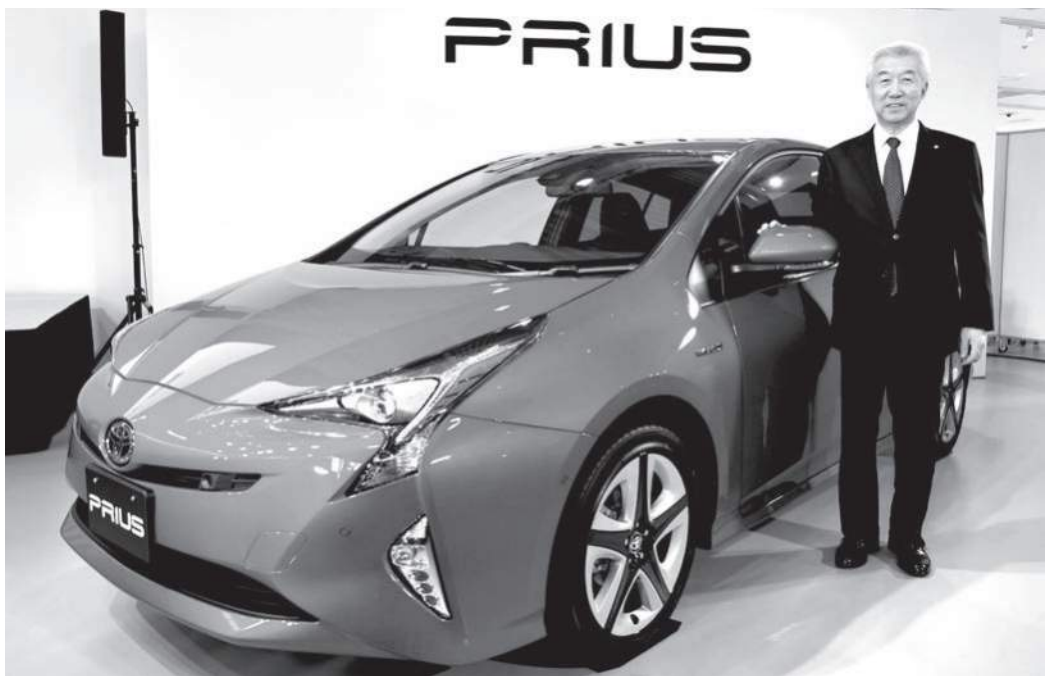
To be a "Top Safety Pick Plus," vehicles must get the top score in all five of the group's crash tests. Winners must also offer advanced front crash-prevention systems with automatic emergency braking. The institute says several vehicles added automatic braking in 2016 so they could compete for the top prize, including the Nissan Maxima and Toyota Avalon.

Before this year, winners could get a lower score on the small overlap front crash test, which is the institute's newest and most challenging test. It replicates what happens when the front corner of a car hits a fixed object. Some previous winners, such as the Toyota Sienna minivan, dropped off the list this year because they didn't earn the top score on that test.

Adrian Lund, the institute's president, said the group tightened its requirements in order to recognize the progress that some automakers are making and encourage others to follow.

The institute noted that automatic braking is standard on the Scion iA, a $16,000 subcompact. It was the only minicar to earn the designation. Only a handful of other vehicles, all of them luxury models, offer automatic braking as a standard feature. Most offer it as an option.

Thirteen vehicles, including five made by General Motors Co., earned the institute's second-highest rating of "Top Safety Pick." Among those was the Buick Encore, which earned the highest scores on the institute's crash tests but doesn't offer automatic braking.



AP

Toyota Motor Corp. Executive Vice President Mitsuhisa Kato poses with a Toyota new Prius at the Toyota showroom in Tokyo, Japan, Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2015.

Australia police raid home of man said to be bitcoin founder

SYDNEY (AP)—Australian police on Wednesday raided the home and business premises of a man that technology news sites have claimed is the founder of virtual currency bitcoin.

A statement from the Australian Federal Police said the searches were related to a tax investigation and not recent media reports on the virtual currency, which is used for transactions across borders without third parties such as banks.

Federal officers and tax officials refused to answer questions as they left the house in a Sydney suburb hauling two black roller suitcases.

Technology publications Wired and Gizmodo published reports this week claiming an Australian businessman is bitcoin's likely inventor.

Since bitcoin's birth in 2009, the identity of currency's creator has remained a mystery. The person, or people, behind the digital currency's inception have been known only as "Satoshi Nakamoto," which many observers believed to be a pseudonym.

In March last year, American Dorian Prentice Satoshi Nakamoto denied in an exclusive interview with The Associated Press that he was the inventor after Newsweek published a 4,500-word cover story linking the currency to him.

Attempts to reach the Sydney businessman that reports claim is Nakamoto were unsuccessful.

A man answered a mobile phone number belonging to the businessman's wife. When an AP journalist asked if she was speaking with the person named as Nakamoto, he asked who was calling. When told he was speaking to a reporter, the man said, "Sorry. Not here," and hung up. Voicemails left on the man's mobile and office numbers were not returned.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

United bringing back free snacks in coach on US flights

CHICAGO (AP)—United Airlines is bringing back free snacks for economy-class passengers in February. Those snacks were cut off in 2008 by United and Continental followed suit in 2011 after the airlines merged. Jimmy Samartzis, United's vice president of food services, said the airline is "refocusing on the big and little things that we know matter to our customers." Economy flyers can now look forward to treats ranging from stroopwafels, a Dutch treat of two thin waffles stuck together with caramel, to an Asian-inspired mix of rice crackers, sesame sticks and wasabi peas. The airline said Wednesday that the snacks would return on all United and United Express flights within the U.S. and those in Latin America that don't already have them.

Judge expands scope of Uber lawsuit

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A federal judge Wednesday increased the number of drivers eligible to join a lawsuit against ride-hailing company Uber alleging they were incorrectly classified as independent contractors when they were actually employees. U.S. District Court Judge Edward Chen in San Francisco certified an additional class of California drivers in the suit. Shannon Liss-Riordan, an attorney for the plaintiffs, said the ruling would allow "many thousands more Uber drivers to be covered" by the lawsuit. Before the expansion, Chen had estimated that at least hundreds of drivers would qualify for the suit. Chen also said in his ruling the drivers could seek vehicle-related and phone expenses. He had previously limited the drivers' claims to tips. Wednesday' ruling means the company could be on the hook for more in damages if it loses the case.

South Africa's finance minister fired

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—South Africa's president has fired the country's finance minister who served less than two years. On Wednesday, President Jacob Zuma said Nhlanhla Nene will be replaced by David van Rooyen, a former mayor and member of parliament who has served on financial committees. In a statement from the presidency, Zuma said Nene, South Africa's first black finance minister, did well in a difficult situation. The president said Nene will be deployed to "another strategic position." South Africa's currency, the rand, recently dropped to new lows against the U.S. dollar, closing Wednesday at 14.52 rand to $1. Last week, ratings agency Fitch downgraded the country to BBB-. Standard and Poor's maintained South Africa's BBB- foreign currency credit rating, but revised the outlook to negative.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED BIDS for construction of a Brown Tree Snake (BTS) Containment Barrier at the Tinian International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Project No. CPA-TA-002-13 will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP, 96950.

All Bids shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: Tinian International Airport Brown Tree Snake Containment Barrier Construction, Project No. CPA-TA-002-13 and must be submitted no later than **2:00 PM on MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2015** to the Office of the Executive Director at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed Bids will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to, construction of a 40' x 40' concrete containment barrier, inclusive of masonry work, touch up painting, electrical connection to existing panel, lighting and power, bituminous pavement, all in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA). The Contract award, if it is made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days of the receipt of Bid Proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold such Bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of Bid opening.

The Contract period for construction of the Project in its entirety shall be one hundred twenty (120) calendar days. Liquidated damages in the amount of one hundred fifty dollars ($150.00) shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day completion of the Project is delayed beyond the Contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low Bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." The review will include, but is not necessarily limited to, previous projects experience, financial capability, quantity and quality of equipment and personnel, and ability to secure bonding and insurance. If the apparent low Bidder is found to be not "responsive and responsible", their Bid will be rejected and the next lowest Bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the Project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by CNMI Law or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract. A copy of the CNMI Minimum Wage Rate Determination is included in the General Provisions, Section 70-25.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the Specifications. Bid Proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority office at no cost.

Each Bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Non-Segregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", as contained in the Bid Proposal documents, with submission of their Bid Proposal.

A CD-Rom containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents, including Drawings and Specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon payment of **ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($100.00)** for each set of documents in electronic form, including the Bid Schedule. The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. Postal money order made payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the Tinian International Airport, at **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2015** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this Project. Attendance of the Pre-Bid Conference is mandatory. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference date.

Bid Proposals shall be submitted on the Bid Proposal form included in the CD-Rom obtained from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all Bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding Bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the Bid Schedule or mis-entry of the quantity of line items; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the Project Contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said Bids if, in its sole opinion, to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

The proposed Contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the Regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

Each Bidder must supply all information required by the Bid documents and Specifications.

A Contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the Specifications. To be eligible for award, each Bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit Bids in response to this Invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, in consideration for an award of any Contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each Bid shall be accompanied by either a Bid Bond issued by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company, Certified Check, or a Cashier's Check in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the Bid amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposed Contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ JOSE F. LIFOIFOI
Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: November 20, 2015

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
San Jose Village
P.O. Box 502149 Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. Nos.: (670) 234-7145/7146/6293/6245
Fax No.: (670) 235-7147
Email Address: administration@cda.gov.mp
Website: www.cda.gov.mp

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION
December 18, 2015

Notice is hereby given, that pursuant to **loan documents**, the Commonwealth Development Authority ("CDA") shall auction off to the highest bidder **used airplane, parts and accessories and airline operation supplies.**

The auction shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. The items are being sold **"AS IS"** and **"WHERE IS"**;
2. The items are being sold **WITHOUT WARRANTY** of any type;
3. The public auction will be held at the **CPA Freedom Air Hangar on Friday, December 18, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.**;
4. Terms of the sale are cash, certified check or credit card (Visa and Mastercard only; a 2% fee will be charged on credit card transactions); and
5. CDA reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to withdraw this notice and postpone the sale from time to time.

CDA is attempting to collect a debt and any payments received will be used for that purpose. Any interested party or person may contact Ms. Abby Atalig or Ms. Marie Coleman, Loan Officers, CDA at 234-7145 extensions 304 and 307 for further information. Inspection of items will be announced at a later date. Failure to inspect the property will not constitute grounds for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer. All sales are final.

Dated this 25th day of November, 2015

Commonwealth Development Authority
/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director

Nation

After California shooting, fears of Muslim harassment rise

NEW YORK (AP)—A severed pig's head was left outside a mosque in Philadelphia. An Islamic center in Florida was defaced. A Sikh temple in California was vandalized by someone who mistook it for a mosque and left graffiti that included a profane reference to the Islamic State terror group.

Advocacy groups believe there has been a spike in anti-Muslim incidents across the United States in recent weeks that can be linked to last week's mass shooting in California and the inflammatory rhetoric of Donald Trump and other Republican presidential candidates. And they say that Muslims are fearful the backlash could lead to further harassment and violence.

"The spike began with the Paris attacks and has intensified with what happened in San Bernardino and now with what Donald Trump is proposing," Ibrahim Hooper, lead spokesman for the Council on American-Islamic Relations, said Wednesday. "I have never seen such fear and apprehension in the Muslim community, even after 9/11."

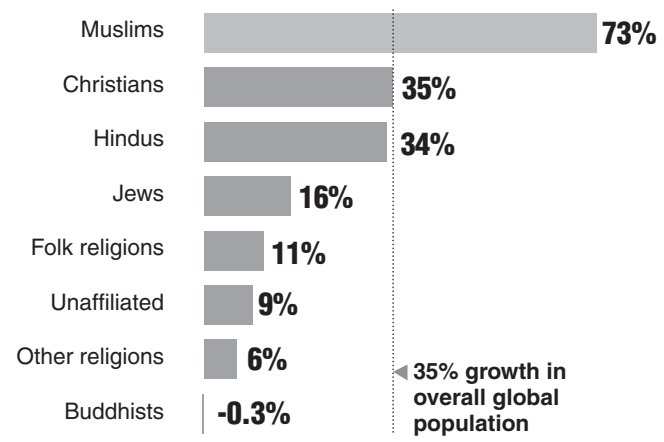
The FBI, which keeps statistics on hate crimes committed nationwide, said data about 2015 will not be available until next year. But the Anti-Defamation League said it has tracked more than three dozen incidents since the Nov. 13 terror attacks in Paris that left 130 dead.

"We're talking at least three dozen that we're aware of and I'm sure there are many more incidents that haven't been reported," said Oren Segal, the director of the ADL's Center on Extremism.

Islam growing fastest

Muslims are the only major religious group projected to increase faster than the world's population as a whole.

Estimated change in population size, 2010-2050



Source: Pew Research Center
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

AP
Mayor Michael Nutter, center front, joins with interfaith leaders to speak to the media on Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2015, in Philadelphia.

Gun buyer and gunman linked through marriage, previous plot

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (AP)—The gunman who massacred his coworkers in the San Bernardino rampage and the friend who bought the assault rifles used in the rampage were related through marriage and may have plotted an attack together three years ago.

New revelations from officials and public records show a much deeper connection between Syed Rizwan Farook and Enrique Marquez than previously was disclosed.

Marquez purchased high-powered weapons at least three years ago that Farook and his wife fired when they burst into a holiday-themed meeting of Farook's fellow health inspectors Dec. 2, killing 14 people and wounding 21 others. The FBI said it was a terrorist attack.

Farook, 28, and Tashfeen Malik, 29, were killed hours later in a shootout with police, leaving behind a 6-month-old daughter.

FBI Director James Comey told the Senate Judiciary Committee on Wednesday that the two shooters were radicalized well before Malik came to the U.S. on a fiancée visa and they had discussed jihad and martyrdom as early as 2013.

Investigators are trying to determine if Farook's path toward extremism predated that time and whether it led to plans to launch an attack in 2012, according to two people familiar with the investigation who were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Planned Parenthood suspect: 'I am a warrior for the babies'

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP)—The man accused of killing three people at a Colorado Planned Parenthood clinic stunned a courtroom Wednesday when he declared himself a "warrior for the babies" and said he was guilty and won't go to trial.

Robert Lewis Dear, 57, made the outburst before he was formally charged with 179 counts of first-degree murder, attempted murder and other crimes.

Bearded, unkempt and cuffed at the wrists and ankles, Dear repeatedly disrupted the hourlong hearing, interrupting his public defender, Daniel King, and objecting to King's attempts to limit publicity in the case.

King—who represented Colorado theater shooter James Holmes—has asked the judge to impose a gag order on participants in the Planned Parenthood case before a trial.

"You'll never know what I saw in that clinic. Atrocities. The babies. That's what they want to seal," Dear shouted at one point, prompting a deputy to squeeze his shoulder in an effort to quiet him.

CHARITY R. HODSON (F0487)
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 502607 CK
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 234-1615
Facsimile: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioner Linda Koshiro

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF TETSUO KOSHIRO, Deceased.	CIVIL ACTION NO. 15-0150 AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR LETTERS OF APPOINTMENT OF CO-ADMINISTRATRICES Date: January 26, 2016 Time: 1:30 p.m. Judge: David A. Wiseman

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE TETSUO KOSHIRO OR HIS ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **Linda Koshiro** has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of Tetsuo Koshiro, the deceased, and to appoint Linda Koshiro and Esther Koshiro as Co-Administratrices. The attorney for Petitioner is **Charity R. Hodson, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 502607, Saipan, MP 96950.**

The hearing on the Petition by Linda Koshiro, as Petitioner, is scheduled to be heard on **January 26, 2016, at 1:30 p.m.** at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or his Estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or the claim(s) will be baited. A copy of your claim should also be sent to **CHARITY R. HODSON, Attorney at Law, at the address hereinabove indicated.**

Dated this 3rd day of December, 2015.

/s/_____
Clerk of Court
Deputy Clerk of Court

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Proposed Amendment of the Citizen Participation Plan
(This advertisement is paid for with HUD funds)

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the proposed amendment of its Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) which sets forth NMHC's policies and procedures for citizen participation in the planning, implementation, and assessment of its Community Planning Development (CPD) funds for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME), and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) programs.

The CPP is available for public review and inspection at the NMHC's Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, and at the respective NMHC field offices in Tinian and Rota during regular business hours from Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays. Written comments should be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. Monday, December 28, 2015 to NMHC's offices in Saipan, Tinian, or Rota.

The CPP may also be viewed at our website at www.nmhcgov.net under the section titled "Public Notice/Announcement" and select the subsection titled "Citizen Participation Plan Amendment". Comments can be submitted via email at nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp no later than 4:30 p.m. Monday, December 28, 2015.

NMHC will make the necessary arrangement for persons with disabilities. If you should require any additional information or need special accommodations in reviewing the CPP, please contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planner/Environmental Officer at 234-6866/234-9447.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Procurement, Delivery and Programming of Radio Equipment for the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Department at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
Project No. CPA-SA-002-16

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified companies to procure, deliver and program/configure brand new radio equipment for the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Department at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Proposals are to include procurement, installation and programming of frequencies for all new equipment.

The radio equipment shall include the quantities and details as provided in the scope of work and product specifications provided with the scope. The scope and product data are available for pick up at the CPA Administration Office.

The proposals shall include the following:

1. Letter of interest;
2. Team Members;
3. Related past project performance (include commendations or certifications, if available);
4. Available resources to accomplish the project;
5. Cost proposal (in itemized SOW format); and
6. Valid Business License.

The contract period for procurement and installation will be based on the contractor's proposal. However, liquidated damages of $500.00 shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the acceptance date without approved excuse by CPA.

All proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description to the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than 4:30 p.m., **FRIDAY, JANUARY 4, 2016.**

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

The procurement is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of receipt of proposals.

All This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 40-50-225. Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Total cost for equipment procurement, delivery and programming	35%
2. Experience of the firm on similar or related projects	35%
3. Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff	20%
4. Timeframe for delivery and programming	10%

Questions and inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals shall be submitted in writing and may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to Assistant ARFF Chief William Camacho at bcamacho@cpa.gov.mp.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

/s/ THOMAS P. VILLAGOMEZ
Acting Board Chairman /Contracting Officer

Date: December 3, 2015

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

Police: No active links between Filipino, IS group militants

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police say there is no sign of any active collaboration between Filipino Muslim militants and the Islamic State group to which they have pledged allegiance. Police Director for Intelligence Generoso Cerbo said Tuesday that close monitoring of local Muslim militants who have openly pledged support to the Islamic State group's leader has shown no evidence of any financial or combat support either way. Militants from at least four small Philippine Muslim groups, including the brutal Abu Sayyaf, have posted videos of themselves online using Islamic State group-style black flags and swearing support to the militants in Syria and Iraq.

Malaysian PM vows he will not resign over financial scandal

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Embattled Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak has vowed he will not retreat nor surrender amid pressure for him to resign over a $700 million financial scandal. Najib has been under pressure since July after leaked documents showed he received $700 million in his private accounts from entities linked to indebted state investment fund 1MDB. The 1MDB crisis has been partly blamed for a sharp plunge in the Malaysian ringgit. Opening an annual assembly of his ruling Malay party, Najib reiterated Thursday that the money in his account was a political donation. He said 1MDB's debts of at least 42 billion ringgit ($9.8 billion) were being resolved with the recent sale of its power assets. Najib told the assembly that there shall be "no retreat, no surrender."

US veterans who firebombed Japan meet survivor

TOKYO (AP)—Five American veterans who took part in firebombing Japan during World War II saw photos of stacks of charred bodies and leveled homes at a museum dedicated to the victims, and said the outcome on the ground of their missions was awful. Fiske Hanley was an engineer on a B-29 bomber in the March 10, 1945, firebombing of Tokyo that killed about 100,000 people and destroyed much of the eastern part of the city. On the ground, Haruyo Nihei was running for her life as a schoolgirl. Hanley and Nihei, now 95 and 79, met at the museum on Wednesday and celebrated their survival. The five veterans, who were on separate planes that firebombed different areas of Japan, are visiting Tokyo on a Japanese government reconciliation program.

Thai police probe US envoy over comments about monarchy law

BANGKOK (AP)—Thai police said Wednesday they are investigating comments made by the U.S. ambassador about a law that bans criticism of the monarchy, but don't expect to bring charges because he has diplomatic immunity. Police spokesman Maj. Gen. Piyaphan Pingmuang said they are investigating a Nov. 25 speech by Ambassador Glyn Davies because they had received a complaint that it violated the same law by defaming the monarchy, known as lese majeste. The diplomatic contretemps is the latest dust-up between Washington and one of its most durable allies in Asia. U.S. criticisms of military takeovers in 2006 and last year have been mild, with only the softest sanctions applied, such as the cancellation of high-level meetings. But because the military actions were framed in part as a defense of Thailand's much revered monarchy, royalists treat American concerns as interference and culturally insensitive.

Hackers say crashed Japan PM's website to protest whale hunt

TOKYO (AP)—A hacking group said Thursday it has crashed Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's official website to protest Japan's plans to hunt whales. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters that one of Abe's websites has been inaccessible since early Thursday and police were investigating. Suga acknowledged that the Anonymous hacker group has posted a twitter message claiming responsibility, but added authorities had not singled out the group as a prime suspect.

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• ROLE SERVES AS A MEMBER OF THE STORE MANAGEMENT TEAM AND REPORTS DIRECTLY TO THE ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER, SALES.

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• SALES ASSOCIATE, REGULAR, FT
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• SALES ASSOCIATE, TEMPORARY, PT
• BEAUTY PROMOTER, TEMPORARY, PT

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VISIT: WWW.DFSGROUP.COM/DFS-CAREERS
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World

New draft of climate accord leaves big issues unresolved

LE BOURGET, France (AP)—With just two days left to reach a deal, negotiators at the world climate talks released a new draft Wednesday that drops the most radical ideas—including an international tribunal to punish polluters—but leaves major issues unresolved, such as who should pay to help the most vulnerable nations cope with global warming.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry challenged diplomats to reach agreement by Friday's deadline, promising American funding for low-lying island nations and other countries hit hardest by the rising seas and extreme weather that scientists attribute to man-made emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

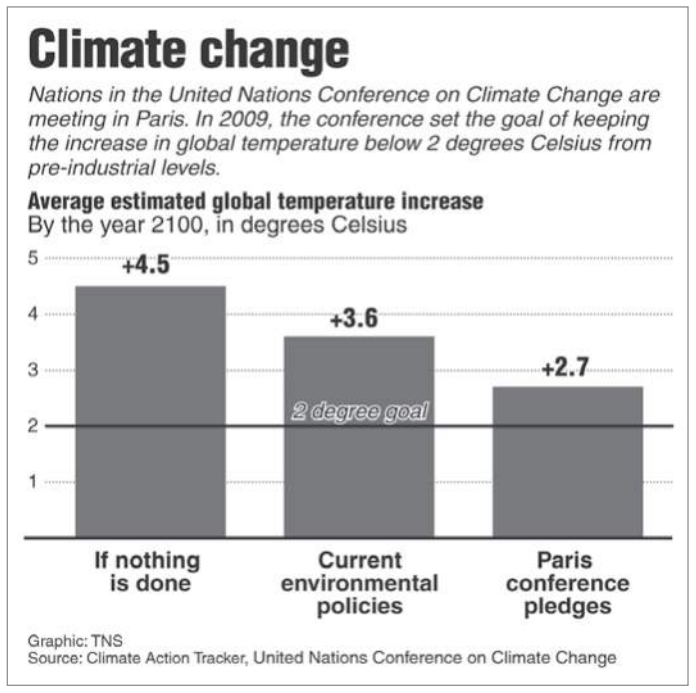
"Our aim can be nothing less than a steady transformation of the global economy," Kerry said.

The new draft released by the U.N. climate agency is 29 pages, down from a 43-page version issued Saturday. There are about 100 places where there are decisions still to be made, including multiple options left in brackets, or blank spaces.

"We have never been this close to a climate change agreement," said Maldives Environment Minister Thoriq Ibrahim, chairman of an alliance of island nations. "It's now up to us ministers to show the leadership needed to make hard decisions that put the interests of people and the planet ahead of short-sighted politics."

Ministers from more than 190 countries are trying to craft the first climate accord asking all nations to reduce or slow their emissions. The previous agreement, the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, required only rich countries to do so.

Most man-made emissions come from the burning of oil, coal and gas—fossil fuels that meet about 80 percent of global energy demand. Replacing them with renewable sources like wind and solar power requires big investments, which poor countries say they can't afford without help.


Climate change
Nations in the United Nations Conference on Climate Change are meeting in Paris. In 2009, the conference set the goal of keeping the increase in global temperature below 2 degrees Celsius from pre-industrial levels.
Average estimated global temperature increase
By the year 2100, in degrees Celsius
5
4
3
2
1
+4.5
+3.6
+2.7
2 degree goal
If nothing is done
Current environmental policies
Paris conference pledges
Graphic: TNS
Source: Climate Action Tracker, United Nations Conference on Climate Change

A previous draft suggested that intellectual property rights to clean technology be removed so that developing countries such as India could get access to it more easily. That was deleted from the latest draft.

A call for an International Tribunal of Climate Justice to punish rich countries that fail to live up to their commitments was also dropped, as were references to emissions from aviation and shipping. But the document doesn't settle the sensitive question of whether advanced developing countries such as China and oil-rich Arab nations should join industrialized countries in providing financial aid.

It also doesn't spell out the long-term goal of the accord—whether it is to remove carbon emissions from the economy altogether or just reduce them.

Nor does it settle whether governments will aim to limit the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees C (2.7 degrees F) above pre-industrial times or closer to 2 degrees C (3.6 degrees F).

"It is not bold enough," European Climate Commissioner Miguel Arias Canete said of the draft.

In an attempt to bridge the rich-poor divide that has often stalled progress in the U.N. talks, the foreign minister of the Marshall Islands, Tony de Brum, announced a "high-ambition coalition" including small island nations, the European Union and the United States, among others.

It was not immediately clear whether the move would yield a breakthrough in the talks. At a plenary session in the evening, several developing countries, including India and Malaysia, accused wealthy nations of not living up to their commitments to provide climate aid for the poor.

Earlier, Kerry announced that the U.S. will double its contribution to helping vulnerable nations adapt to the effects of climate change, increasing grant money to $860 million from $430 million by 2020. Developing nations have been demanding more money as they struggle with an increase in extreme weather events such as hurricanes, heavy rains and floods.

The money will be part of an existing promise by wealthy countries to jointly mobilize $100 billion a year by 2020. It will help fund domestic weather services and tracking systems to better assist poorer nations in forecasting and coping with extreme weather.

Kerry has made combating climate change a priority since he became secretary of state.

"Make no mistake: If, as a global community, we refuse to rise to this challenge—if we continue to allow calculated obstruction to derail the urgency of this moment—we will be liable for a collective moral failure of historic consequence," he said. "We are not just responsible to ourselves—we are responsible to the future."

War, low oil prices cripple Iraq Kurds' once-vibrant economy

IRBIL, Iraq (AP)—Less than two years ago, Iraq's northern Kurdish region was booming, as oil revenues poured in and foreign investors flocked to a rare island of stability in a turbulent region, but that all began to change when the black flags of the Islamic State group darkened the horizon.

Kurdish forces backed by U.S.-led airstrikes repelled an IS assault in the summer of 2014 and have been among the most effective forces battling the extremists. But low oil prices and a longstanding dispute with the central government over revenues, along with an influx of refugees, have crippled the local economy.

The regional capital, Irbil, is littered with half-finished or abandoned building projects -- hotels, offices and apartments that many had hoped would one day transform the largely autonomous region into a Kurdish Dubai. Foreigners attracted to the region by business opportunities and liberal social mores are leaving, civil servants haven't been paid for months and day laborers gather on street corners, hoping for work.

"The economy today has very bad indicators. Savings are running out, people are starting to borrow and cut their expenses, which is directly affecting the market's direction," said Nabil al-Ethari, an economic analyst and chairman of Development Iraq, a consultancy firm based in Irbil.

"The housing sector is declining in a way that has never been seen before, the trade sector, including car sales, is also seeing declines, and all this is connected to the important fact that the region's market is disconnected from its customers and markets in central and southern Iraq."

The relatively secure region was largely spared the unrest that convulsed Iraq following the 2003 U.S.-led invasion, but local authorities have been locked in a longstanding dispute with Baghdad over the sharing of oil revenues.

Kurdish officials say the regional government is entitled to 17 percent of Iraq's budget, or about $12 billion a year. But the central government has withheld much of those funds to punish the region for exporting oil independently, and in the first half of 2015, the government received just $2 billion.

Saudi women face off against men for first time in elections

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP)—Outside of the Saudi capital, in one of the country's most conservative provinces, Jowhara al-Wably is making history. She's running in this weekend's elections.

Saturday's vote for local council seats marks two milestones for Saudi women: Not only can they run in a government election for the first time, it is the first time they are permitted to vote at all.

The municipal councils are the only government body in which Saudi citizens can elect representatives, so the vote is widely seen as a small but significant opening for women to play a more equal role in Saudi society.

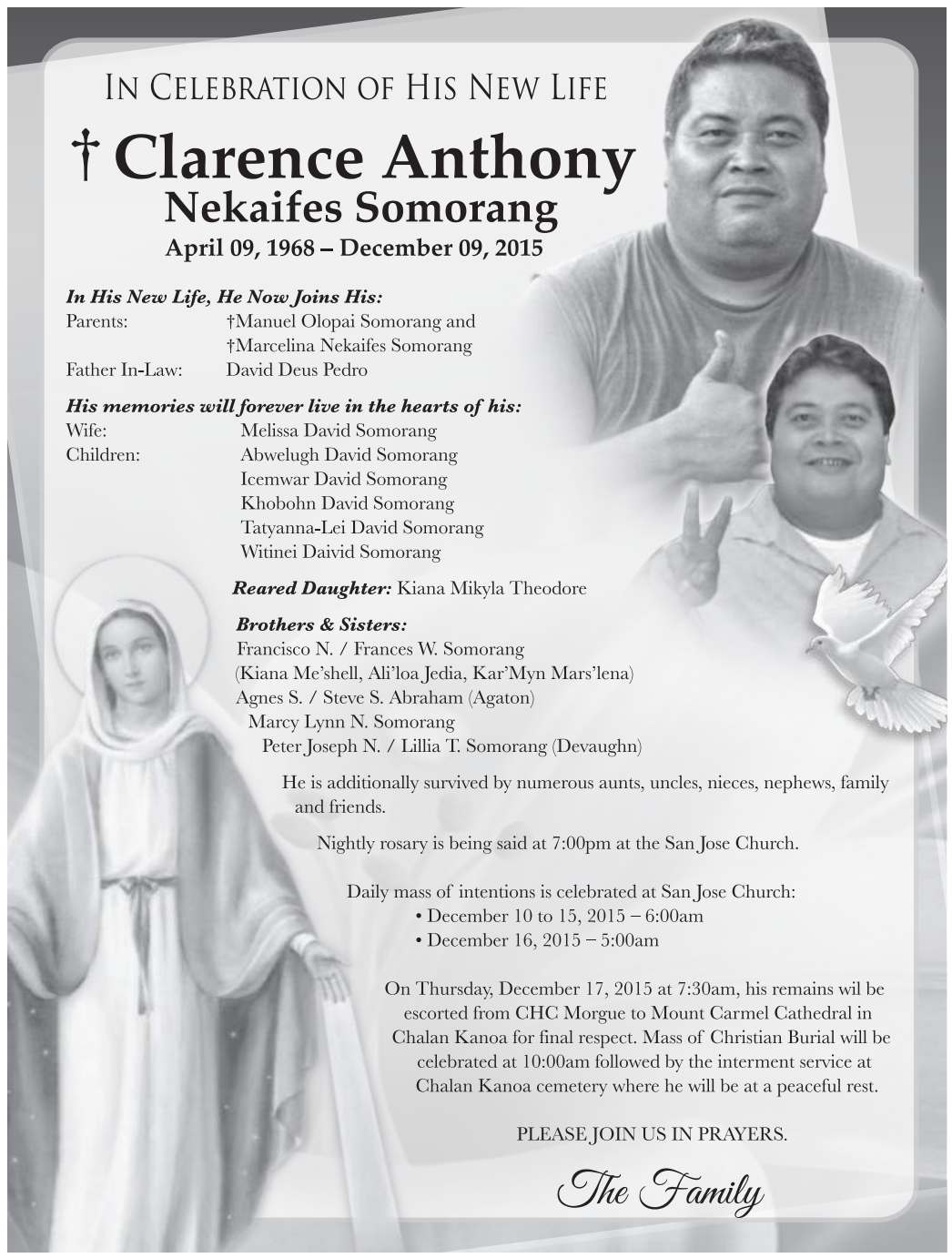
Still, women face challenges on the campaign trail: Because of Saudi Arabia's strict policy of segregation of the sexes, they cannot address male voters directly and have to speak from behind a partition—or have male relatives speak for them.

In an effort to create a more level playing field, the General Election Committee banned both male and female candidates from showing their faces in promotional flyers, billboards or in social media. They're also not allowed to appear on television.

This suits al-Wably, a 52-year-old community activist and Ministry of Education employee. Like all women in Saudi Arabia, she wears a loose-flowing black robe called an "abaya." She also covers her face and hair under a veil called a "niqab" when in public.

When she meets with female voters, she talks to them at the hotel conference hall she's rented in Buraydah, 220 miles (350 kilometers) northwest of Riyadh. But when she makes her pitch to male voters this week, she won't be doing the talking. Her two sons, both in their mid-20s, her husband and her brothers will address the male crowd and she won't be present.

With around 5,000 men registered to vote in her district compared to 620 registered female voters, al-Wably says she can't afford to rely solely on Internet campaigning through Twitter and Facebook to reach men.


IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE
† Clarence Anthony
Nekaifes Somorang
April 09, 1968 – December 09, 2015
In His New Life, He Now Joins His:
Parents: †Manuel Olopai Somorang and †Marcelina Nekaifes Somorang
Father In-Law: David Deus Pedro
His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:
Wife: Melissa David Somorang
Children: Abwelugh David Somorang
Icemwar David Somorang
Khobohn David Somorang
Tatyanna-Lei David Somorang
Witinei Daivid Somorang
Reared Daughter: Kiana Mikyla Theodore
Brothers & Sisters:
Francisco N. / Frances W. Somorang
(Kiana Me'shell, Ali'loa Jedia, Kar'Myn Mars'lena)
Agnes S. / Steve S. Abraham (Agaton)
Marcy Lynn N. Somorang
Peter Joseph N. / Lillia T. Somorang (Devaughn)
He is additionally survived by numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, family and friends.
Nightly rosary is being said at 7:00pm at the San Jose Church.
Daily mass of intentions is celebrated at San Jose Church:
• December 10 to 15, 2015 – 6:00am
• December 16, 2015 – 5:00am
On Thursday, December 17, 2015 at 7:30am, his remains wil be escorted from CHC Morgue to Mount Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa for final respect. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00am followed by the interment service at Chalan Kanoa cemetery where he will be at a peaceful rest.
PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYERS.
The Family

Off The Wall

Paging owners of abandoned jets: Malaysia wants them out

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Attention owners of three jumbo jets parked at Malaysia's main airport: please remove your aircraft immediately or the airport will.

Malaysia's airport operator took the unusual step of posting photos in two major newspapers of the three Boeing 747-200s that have been sitting idle for more than a year. The notice this week warns the owners that the airport has the right to sell or dispose of the planes unless they are collected within 14 days.

Kuala Lumpur International Airport General Manager Zainol Mohamad Isa said Wednesday such notice is normal in a bid to recover debts owed to Malaysia Airports Holdings Berhad, after exhaustive but futile efforts to locate the owners. They are believed to be foreign entities that could have ceased operations.

AP
One of the three abandoned planes with tail number, TF-ARM, is seen taxied on the tarmac of Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang, Malaysia, Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2015.

The planes carry registration prefixes TF for Iceland. An Iceland-based air charter and cargo company, Air Atlanta Icelandic, was quoted by The Star newspaper as saying it operated the planes until 2010.

"We placed out the advertisements because we want to remove ambiguity over ownership of the planes," Zainol said. "We want the owners to step forward and we want the planes to be out of our airport bay."

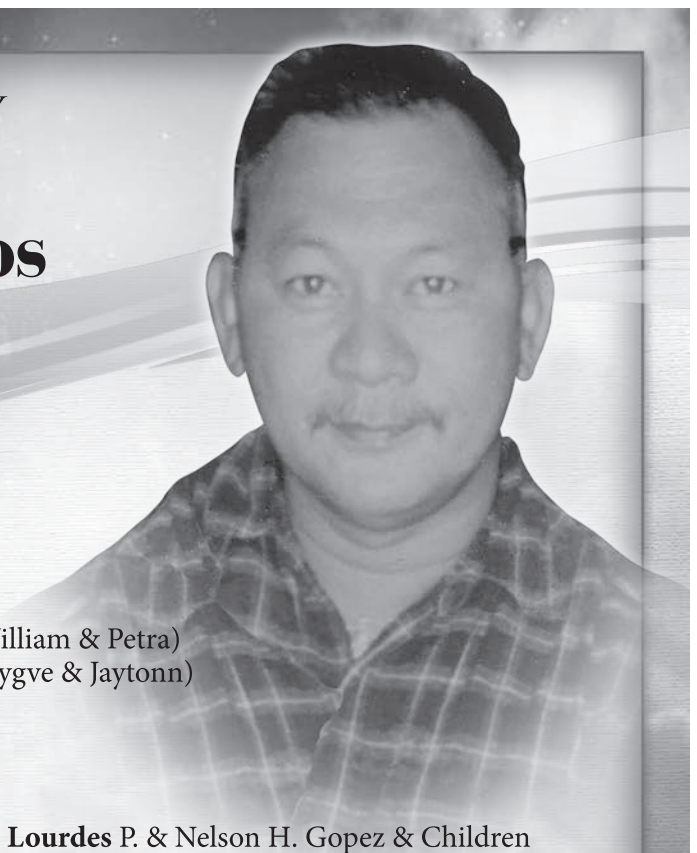
He said that such cases are not uncommon and happen in airports around the world.

If the planes are unclaimed, Malaysia Airports will likely sell the jets to recover debts for landing and parking fees, Zainol said, but declined to say how much money is being owed.

In Loving Memory

†Antonio Sablan Palacios

June 24, 1956 – December 7, 2015



In His New Life, He Now Joins His:

Parents: †Joaquin Indalecio Palacios
†Margarita Sablan Palacios
Stepfather: †Juan C. Castro

Forever In Our Hearts:

Children:
Joaquin C. Palacios & Mary-Rose H. Palacios (William & Petra)
John Anthony C. Palacios & Helory P. Masga (Trygve & Jaytonn)
Emilias A.K. Palacios
Emily B.K. Palacios

Brothers & Sisters:
Bernadita P. & Steven Tubbs & Children
Maria Rosa P. & Robert Nedzwecky & Children
Joaquin S. & Catalina Palacios & Children
Mariano S. & Vivian DLR. Palacios & Children
Jesus S. Palacios & Children
Ana P. & Luis B. Cepeda & Children
Lourdes P. & Nelson H. Gopez & Children
Remedio S. Palacios & Children
Albert S. & Katherine T. Palacios & Children
Mariana P. & Justis Cuki Alvarez & Children
Vicente S. Palacios & Jenaida Sablan & Children

He will also be missed by numerous aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces, cousins, relatives & friends.

Holy Rosary is being said at 5:00 p.m. daily at San Antonio Church followed by Mass of Intention for the repose of his soul at 6:00 p.m. Holy Rosary on Sunday will begin at 7:00 a.m. followed by Mass at 8:00 a.m.

Funeral services is scheduled for Tuesday, December 15th. His remains will be escorted from the Commonwealth Health Center morgue at 7:30 a.m. to San Antonio Church. Responso Service will be held upon arrival of his remains followed by Holy Rosary.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. Interment Service will be at 12:00 noon at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery, where he will be laid to rest.

Your Prayers are much appreciated.

Thank You Yan Un Dankulu Na Si Yu'us Maase.

Children & Family

Science & Technology

Yahoo's new plan: Spin off itself, not its Alibaba stake

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Internet pioneer Yahoo, under pressure from unhappy shareholders and desperate to avoid a huge investment-related tax bill, will break itself apart—just not in the way it had previously planned.

The company will now aim to spin off its struggling Internet business—essentially, everything associated with the Yahoo brand name—into a new company. Yahoo itself would then become little more than a holding company for its $32 billion stake in Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba.

For most of the past year, Yahoo had planned instead to spin off the Alibaba stake into a separate holding company called Aabaco. That corporate maneuver was designed to sidestep more than $10 billion in taxes Yahoo might otherwise owe. But the IRS jeopardized that plan by refusing to guarantee a tax exemption.

The about-face could mean big changes for hundreds of millions of users who rely on Yahoo websites, services like email and other mobile applications. CEO Marissa Mayer plans to outline a cost-cutting reorganization late next month; many analysts speculate that Yahoo may simply sell off that business if the latest overhaul doesn't bear fruit quickly

The uncertainty and reshuffling threaten more distractions at a time when Yahoo is already struggling in digital advertising against rivals such as Google and Facebook. It also may raise more doubts about whether Mayer will be able to turn around Yahoo, even though company Chairman Maynard Webb said Wednesday that the board of directors remains in her corner after three-and-half years on the job.

"The bottom line is the saga continues," Macquarie Securities analyst Ben Schachter wrote in a Wednesday note titled "The Never-Ending Story."

Yahoo's new spinoff plan could be even more complicated than the original Aabaco spinoff. It may take more than a year before Yahoo shareholders get stock in a newly formed company that has yet to be named.

"This means they have squandered an entire year and now it's going to take another year while the core business continues to get weaker," BGC Financial analyst Colin Gillis said.

With Yahoo hanging in limbo, prospective bidders could emerge for the company's Internet operations, which Wall Street has been valuing at next to nothing. Analysts believe Yahoo's websites, mobile applications, ad services and well-known brand eventually could be worth $3 billion to $5 billion. Suitors might include AT&T Inc., Verizon Communications, Comcast Corp., IAC/InterActiveCorp and private equity firms that specialize in buying troubled companies.

Webb, though, emphasized there are no plans to sell Yahoo's Internet business, which he called "tremendously undervalued" in a Wednesday conference call. The best path forward, Webb said, involves "separating the Alibaba assets from our operating businesses and also turning around the performance in our operating business."

Those remarks seemed to disappoint investors hoping that Yahoo's latest change in course might be a precursor to a sale. Yahoo's stock shed 45 cents to close at $34.40. The shares have fallen by 32 percent so far this year.

Life & Style

Daisy Ridley may be more brave in 'Star Wars' than real life

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Daisy Ridley may not be as brave as her character in "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," but she's close.

In her first-ever film role, the 23-year-old British-born actress plays Rey, a pilot and scavenger at the center of the action in the hugely anticipated "Episode VII."

The hardest thing about the job, Ridley said, was overcoming her own fears.

"It's one thing for other people to see potential in you and it's quite another for you to understand that and see it in yourself," she said. "So of course everyone else being wonderful helps, but there's a certain level of growth and stuff you have to do as a person... It's just like life times a million."

Right now, that life is a sniffley one that includes lots of airplanes and interviews. The film's nonstop promotional schedule has left Ridley with a cold that has her wrapped in a winter coat on a recent warm Southern California day. But even illness doesn't weaken her resolve when it comes to keeping the film's hotly guarded secrets.

Though co-star Harrison Ford has said Rey wields a lightsaber in the film, Ridley deflected the question when asked directly.

"Finn and Kylo have a fight with a lightsaber," is all she would say, referring to co-stars John Boyega and Adam Driver, whose tussle has already been shown in the film's trailers.

The actress did undergo months of physical training to prepare for her role, a regimen that included weightlifting, climbing and "staff training"—footage shows Rey running and fighting with a staff. How much different could a lightsaber be?

"I had to look like I could look after myself in the desert and drag and scavenging things across sand," she said.

The youngest of five, Ridley appeared in small roles in medical and crime television dramas in the U.K. before capturing director J.J. Abrams' attention in her audition for "The Force Awakens."

The film's set transported Ridley to the "Star Wars" world, where Abrams and the cast helped allay an initial feeling she describes as "terror."

"Luckily, to have J.J. there, who is so kind and considerate and encouraging, and to have a crew of people who made me feel safe and not rushed and not pressured, that is precisely what took the pressure off."

AP

In this Sunday, Dec. 6, 2015 photo, actress Daisy Ridley poses for a photo during a promotion for the new film, "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," in Los Angeles.

Joan Collins says Christmas bittersweet without Jackie

NEW YORK (AP)—Christmas will be bittersweet for Dame Joan Collins coming so soon after the death of her sister, Jackie.

"I'm still missing my sister a lot," she said, her voice softening during an interview Tuesday. "Her children and her grandchildren miss her terribly, as does our brother, Bill."

Jackie Collins lost her battle with breast cancer Sept. 19 at age 77. Older sister Joan will be with Jackie's three children and other loved ones for the holidays.

"We were three siblings. We used to call ourselves the Three Musketeers," Collins said. "Her children are wonderful and we're all going to be together in London for Christmas having the traditional family Christmas with the turkey and the cake and the presents. It won't be the same without Jackie, but we're gonna do it

At 82, the "Dynasty" star who built a badass reputation on her vengeful Alexis Carrington Colby character is as busy as ever on the professional front.

She has a recurring role as the sassy Grand Duchess Alexandra of Oxford on E!'s over-the-top "The Royals." The author of numerous books, Collins released "The St. Tropez Lonely Hearts Club" in November. It's a satirical murder-mystery novel that unfolds during high season among the rich and richer on the Côte d'Azur.

And she's been busy, too, in her closets. She's putting about 450 personal and professional items on the auction block, including some of her "Dynasty" dresses, elegant furniture and jewelry. The sale will be held Dec. 16 by the Beverly Hills, California, house Julien's Auctions.

"I'm very into clothes, I'm very into fashion and I never buy anything unless I really, really love it so it's always a little difficult for me to get rid of things," Collins said. "But you can't hang on to things."

Also included in the sale: Two love letters written to her by Warren Beatty in 1960.

"I was engaged to Warren and we were both quite young," she recalled. "He had to go off and do his national service ... and we used to write to each other every two or three days. ... We had quite a hot relationship."

The two never married.

Collins may have looked back while rummaging for auction items, but she stays firmly committed to keeping up with pop culture. She counts herself a fan of the Fox hit "Empire," which packs a family-drama punch just as "Dynasty" did. She's even met Taraji P. Henson.

"I think it's fabulous. She said that she had used some of Alexis's character for Cookie," Collins said.

As for her duchess on "The Royals," Collins is having fun.

"I just don't want the queen to see it," she laughed.

In Humble Gratitude

Thank you for grieving with us.
Thank you for praying with us and for us.
May God's love abound to you today and always, and may His blessings enrich your lives with wisdom, fortitude, and grace. We are sure our beloved prays for all those she left behind who wait expectantly for the day when they are called home. In our quiet moments, let us join our beloved in those prayers.

We pray that God's peace settle upon your heart.

We, the family of the late

†Julie Crisostomo Aldan Castro

wish to express our gratitude to the Very Reverend Fr. Ryan P. Jimenez for presiding over the Mass of Christian Burial , the clergy of the Diocese of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa for assisting in the Eucharistic celebration and to Deacon Steve Martinez and Tan Ko' Palacios. We are forever grateful to Msgr. David Quitugua from the Archdiocese of Hagatna for being at our side to pray beside our beloved at Our Lady of Peace Crematorium.

Thank you to Alice DeLeon Guerrero for reciting the nightly rosaries at Kristo Rai Church.
To Medina, Luming and Tony, Maraming Salamat for the daily care and comfort and love extended to our beloved.

For all – All whom have unselfishly helped us in one way or another, Thank You.
To all who have traveled to be come and grieve with us, Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you and your family peace. Amen.

Frank Camacho Castro,
Children, Grandchildren
and Families

German leader Angela Merkel named Time's Person of the Year

NEW YORK (AP)—German Chancellor Angela Merkel has been named Time's Person of the Year, praised Wednesday by the magazine for her leadership on everything from Syrian refugees to the Greek debt crisis.

Time also cited Merkel's strong response to "Vladimir Putin's creeping theft of Ukraine" and on its cover called her "Chancellor of the Free World."

"Not once or twice but three times there has been reason to wonder this year whether Europe could continue to exist, not culturally or geographically but as a historic experiment in ambitious statecraft," Time editor Nancy Gibbs wrote. "You can agree with her or not, but she is not taking the easy road. Leaders are tested only when people don't want to follow. For asking more of her country than most politicians would dare, for standing firm against tyranny as well as expedience and for providing steadfast moral leadership in a world where it is in short supply, Angela Merkel is TIME's Person of the Year."

Merkel, 61, is just the fourth woman since 1927 to be chosen and the first since opposition leader Corazon C. Aquino of the Philippines in 1986. She is the first German since Willy Brandt, the West German chancellor named in 1970 for "seeking to bring about a fresh relationship between East and West" during the Cold War. In 1999, Time picked the German-born Albert Einstein as Person of the Century.

AP

In this Thursday, July 16, 2015, file photo, German Chancellor Angela Merkel smiles as she arrives for a meeting in Berlin.

Wednesday's news came in as Merkel's spokesman Steffen Seibert was leading a government press conference in the German capital, while Merkel herself was at an event in Leipzig. When asked about it by The Associated Press, Seibert said he had only just received word on his phone himself.

"I'm sure the chancellor will regard this as an encouragement for her political work, for a good future for Germany as well as for Europe," Seibert said.

Not everyone welcomed Merkel's selection. She has been criticized for demanding unduly harsh terms for Greece as the country struggled to pay its debts and remain on the euro. Maria Dimopoulou, a public sector worker in Greece, said that Merkel "may be woman of the year for Europe and the world in general but for Greece she is disaster of the year and all of the past years."

Another dissenter, for different reasons, was Donald Trump. He was a finalist for Person of the Year and for months has topped Republican polls for the 2016 U.S. presidential election and dominated headlines.

"I told you @TIME Magazine would never pick me as person of the year despite being the big favorite," he tweeted soon after Time's announcement. "They picked person who is ruining Germany."

The other candidates for 2015 were Caitlyn Jenner, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, the Black Lives Matter protest movement, ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and Uber CEO Travis Kalanick.

Streisand upstaged by Katzenberg at entertainment breakfast

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Barbra Streisand was the guest of honor at the annual Women in Entertainment breakfast Wednesday, but it was Hollywood publicist Nanci Ryder and studio chief Jeffrey Katzenberg who moved the audience most.

Streisand

Ryder, who was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease last year, appeared with Katzenberg at the industry event. Because she can no longer speak, he read a statement she had written, and as he did, Ryder wailed and dabbed her eyes with Kleenex. By the time he finished the statement, he was crying, too, as were most of the guests at Milk Studios, where the breakfast was held.

"I aspire to be half the person you are," Katzenberg told Ryder through tears.

In her statement, Ryder urged the entertainment powerhouses at the Hollywood Reporter's annual Power 100 breakfast to work together to create gender equity in the industry.

"I wish my disease were as easy to fix as this," she wrote.

Beyond its annual Power 100 list of the most influential women in Hollywood, the Hollywood Reporter's Women in Entertainment initiative includes a mentorship program, which pairs girls in underserved areas of Los Angeles with female Hollywood executives for a year of mentoring.

Singer Meghan Trainor announced at Wednesday's breakfast that three of those girls would receive full academic scholarships to Loyola Marymount University, inspiring another round of tears in the room.

"I never thought I would get to go to college," one honoree said through sobs.

The audience was cried out by the time Streisand took the stage to accept the Sherry Lansing Leadership Award, saying she's angry that women are still

Kelly Rowland looks to create girl group on new BET series

ATLANTA (AP)—If fans are anticipating a Destiny's Child reunion album, Kelly Rowland says don't expect one anytime soon.

These days, Rowland is focused on recording solo music and filming a documentary series called "Chasing Destiny," which premieres on BET in April. She completed a three-city quest in New York, Atlanta and Los Angeles with veteran choreographer Frank Gatson who serves as Beyoncé and Rowland's creative director auditioning talent in hopes of finding the next superstar girl group.

"I don't care where they are, where they live, where they're from, their background—I just want to make sure that I have girls in the group who are not afraid to work, who are excited about a great opportunity, who have goals and think, and breathe, and sleep music," Rowland said in an interview last week.

AP

In this Dec. 3, 2015 photo, recording artist Kelly Rowland, formerly of Destiny's Child, poses for a portrait in Atlanta. Rowland is recording a solo album and filming a documentary series called "Chasing Destiny," which premieres on BET in April.

The Grammy winner said she wants to create a girl group for this generation of music fans. The pop charts currently include Fifth Harmony, who had a major hit this year with "Worth It," and British group Little Mix, who won "The X Factor" in 2011 and released their third album last month.

But Rowland believes there's room for more.

"When Destiny's Child was around I remember there was Xscape, there was SWV, there was En Vogue, there was the Cheetah Girls," she said. "There were all these different types of groups, and these different types of girls groups, and there's just one (now)—you're kidding me? Like, get out of here. It should definitely be more."

Rowland said she and Gatson aren't sure how many girls will be selected for the group. Gatson said he already held two secret audition sessions in New Orleans and New York without Rowland, in hopes of finding more candidates. More than 70 prospects auditioned for them in each city.

Giving in to angry vegeance splits woman's family apart

DEAR ABBY: I made a big mistake three years ago. When I found out my husband was cheating on me, I became vengeful and sought revenge. I ended up sleeping with my sister-in-law's boyfriend to get back at my husband and at her for some things she did in the past. It took my pain away—for a bit.

Abby, I am not this kind of person. I'm not an evil, conniving tramp. I regret what I did every day, and I feel like garbage.

My sister-in-law and I haven't spoken since I decided to tell her the truth. My husband and I (miraculously) were able to work through our problems, and our relationship is stronger than ever. My sister-in-law and her boyfriend have remained together, and I don't speak to him anymore either.

What can I do to earn forgiveness? Is this even forgivable? How can I mend this family I helped tear apart?

ONLY HUMAN IN HOUSTON

DEAR ONLY HUMAN: You might start by apologizing to your sister-in-law for the pain you caused her. But after that, the decision about whether she can forgive you or wants anything more to do with you will be up to her.

DEAR ABBY: My granddaughter, "Becca," just turned 6. One of her favorite things to do is role-play, which includes the prince (me) kissing her, sometimes at the end of a wedding ceremony. Becca also likes to sit on my lap.

My wife thinks I shouldn't allow her to sit there and that the interaction isn't appropriate. She says I may be mistaken for some kind of predator. It hurts me and Becca when I tell her we must find some other playtime scenario. I think it's harmless.

Who's right here? My wife or me? Is there an age a granddaughter reaches when this kind of interaction becomes taboo? What about giving her a goodbye kiss when she departs?

BAFFLED GRANDPA IN EL PASO

DEAR BAFFLED: Do Becca's parents agree with your wife? I would be more concerned with whether they consider your playing Prince Charming to be inappropriate. At 6, I see no harm in it. When Becca is 8 or 9, your wife may have a point. Of course, by then she may prefer to be Supergirl rather than a princess, and have other objectives than being a bride.

As to kissing your granddaughter hello or goodbye, that's perfectly appropriate regardless of her age. And when you do, I seriously doubt anyone will mistake you for a predator.

DEAR ABBY: I married the woman of my dreams two months ago. I asked my father to be my best man and he accepted, but he didn't fulfill his duties. There was no bachelor party, no best man speech, and he and my mother left the reception after only an hour. I was hurt and disappointed.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

I have avoided talking to him since. Should I tell him how much he hurt me, or just try to forgive and forget?

LET-DOWN GROOM IN MACON, GA.

DEAR GROOM: I vote for doing both, if you can. When your father accepted the invitation, he may not have understood that being your best man would involve more than standing beside you at the altar. Why he and your mother would leave the reception early is puzzling, but it may have meant that for some reason they felt uncomfortable there. You need to explore that.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

DEAR Santa,
BEFORE I SUBMIT MY LIFE TO YOUR MORAL SCRUTINY, I DEMAND TO KNOW WHO MADE YOU THE MASTER OF MY FATE?!
WHO ARE YOU to QUESTION MY BEHAVIOR, HUH??? WHAT GIVES YOU THE RIGHT?!
SANTA MAKES THE TOYS, SO HE GETS TO DECIDE WHO TO GIVE THEM TO
OH.
TIME TO PREPARE MY APPELLATE CASE.

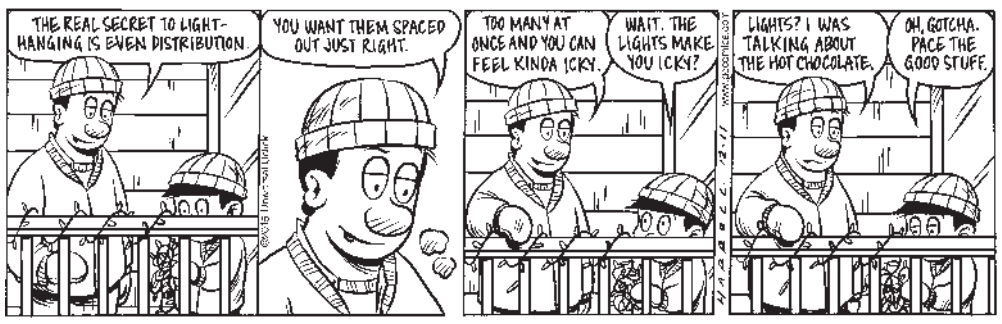
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

ARE YOU TONIGHT'S CHRISTMAS NIGHTMARE?
OH, BOY, AM I EVER!
I'M SANTA'S NAUGHTY LIST!
AM I ON YOU?
DOES AN ELF EAT CANDY CANES FOR BREAKFAST?
JIM DAVIS 12-11

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


THE REAL SECRET TO LIGHT-HANGING IS EVEN DISTRIBUTION.
YOU WANT THEM SPACED OUT JUST RIGHT.
TOO MANY AT ONCE AND YOU CAN FEEL KINDA ICKY.
WAIT. THE LIGHTS MAKE YOU ICKY?
LIGHTS? I WAS TALKING ABOUT THE HOT CHOCOLATE.
OH, GOTCHA. PACE THE GOOD STUFF.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

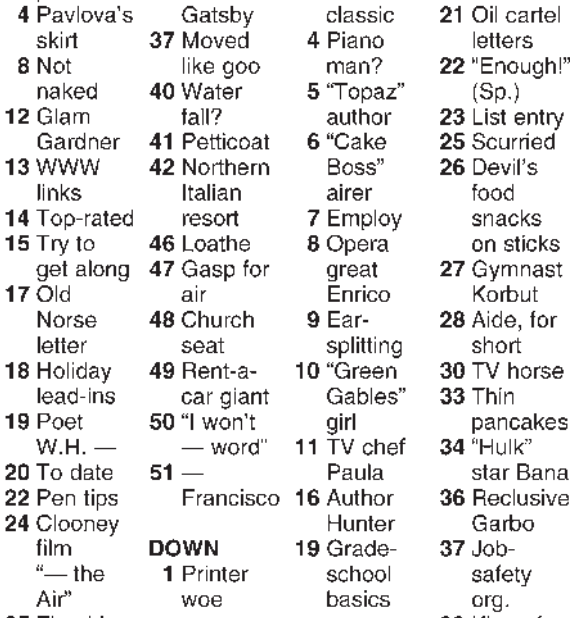
ACROSS
1 Fast plane
4 Pavlova's skirt
8 Not naked
12 Glam Gardner
13 WWW links
14 Top-rated
15 Try to get along
17 Old Norse letter
18 Holiday lead-ins
19 Poet W.H. —
20 To date
22 Pen tips
24 Clooney film "— the Air"
25 Fireside cupful
29 Gun the engine
30 Silent types?
31 Green and Gore
32 Breyers product
34 Heart tests (Abbr.)
35 Lipstick shades
36 Like Gatsby
37 Moved like goo
40 Water fall?
41 Petticoat
42 Northern Italian resort
46 Loathe
47 Gasp for air
48 Church seat
49 Rent-a-car giant
50 "I won't — word"
51 — Francisco

DOWN
1 Printer woe
2 Mrs. Perón
3 Brubeck classic
4 Piano man?
5 "Topaz" author
6 "Cake Boss" airer
7 Employ
8 Opera great Enrico
9 Ear-splitting
10 "Green Gables" girl
11 TV chef Paula
16 Author Hunter
19 Grade-school basics
20 Tom Cruise's kid
21 Oil cartel letters
22 "Enough!" (Sp.)
23 List entry
25 Scurried
26 Devil's food snacks on sticks
27 Gymnast Korbut
28 Aide, for short
30 TV horse
33 Thin pancakes
34 "Hulk" star Bana
36 Reclusive Garbo
37 Job-safety org.
38 King of Norway
39 Pasta tubes
40 Big Apple fashion label
42 Retro records
43 Top bond rating
44 "Peel — grape"
45 Have

Solution time: 26 mins.

S	P	U	D	■	L	O	S	■	A	J	A	R
H	U	G	O	■	A	L	P	■	T	U	N	A
A	R	L	O	■	B	E	E	■	A	V	I	D
W	E	I	R	D	O	■	E	A	R	P	■	■
■	■	■	W	A	R	A	D	M	I	R	A	L
R	O	M	A	N	■	R	U	B	■	C	R	E
C	K	A	Y	■	A	M	P	■	C	P	A	S
M	I	N	■	F	R	O	■	P	O	E	T	S
P	E	A	C	E	T	R	A	I	N	■	■	■
■	■	■	T	I	R	D	■	N	F	V	A	D	A
B	E	E	N	■	E	M	I	■	E	L	A	L
A	G	E	D	■	C	E	E	■	N	O	N	E
R	O	S	Y	■	O	W	S	■	T	R	A	S

Yesterday's answer 12-11



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Hailee Steinfeld, 19; Mos Def, 42; Mo'Nique, 48; Jermaine Jackson, 61.

Happy Birthday: Take your responsibilities seriously and make a point to stay on top of what those around you are doing if it will affect you in any way. Be creative when dealing with neighborhood or family differences, and look for innovative solutions to solve any problems that arise. Bring about change instead of waiting for it to come to you. Your numbers are 2, 10, 19, 22, 31, 33, 40.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Travel for knowledge or to investigate possible options that will result in higher income or greater freedom. Educational pursuits will add to your qualifications and give you an edge. Work relationships will undergo tension and must be handled with diplomacy. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Speak up and discuss your ambitions and desires with personal or professional partners. You can accomplish a lot if you are frank and have a plan that will benefit everyone involved. Don't use force, use facts and business savvy. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't overlook your responsibility to a partnership or someone who has been there for you in the past. Avoid making a mountain out of a molehill. Look at the facts and own up to any mistakes you have made. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Decorate for the upcoming festivities. Don't react poorly if you don't like the choices someone makes. It's not up to you to interfere. Be a good listener and your relationship won't suffer. Offer compassion and love, not criticism. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Step into the spotlight at company parties and you will boost your reputation. Superiors will take note of your talents and the contributions you can make. Make travel plans and put a commitment in place. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Problems at home will surface if you don't do your fair share. If you want to socialize and have fun with friends, be sure to take care of your responsibilities first. A legal, financial or medical matter will need your attention. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Enjoy the festivities happening around town. Attend a parade or activity that will get you in the spirit of the season. The more time you take to soak in the festive holiday atmosphere around you, the less stressful you will feel. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Make your family a top priority. Go shopping for a special treasure for someone you love, or make plans to enjoy a special activity with your family. Add an element of surprise, and you'll be a hero. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You don't have to do everything in a big way. Live within your means, and remember that offering your time will be the greatest gift you can give. It's what you do that's important, not what you buy. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Look at the big picture. If you have been secretive about something, you may want to share your thoughts with the people most affected by your plans before moving forward. Sharing will lead to a couple of tweaks and less stress. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't dream about change, make it happen. Share your ideas with someone in a position to help you out. Use charm to win favors and to ensure that the person you love the most doesn't feel left out. Update personal papers. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Problems and delays will surface if you travel. Don't let your emotions affect your productivity or cause you to forget your responsibilities. Once you've taken care of business, make romance your top priority. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are serious-minded, intense and passionate. You are practical and industrious.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				5		8		
	9		7				3	
5		1				2		
			9		4		7	
6								4
	4		2		3			
		9				3		1
	5				1		9	
		3		7				

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 12/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	1	9	5	6	2	4	7	8
6	4	8	1	7	9	5	3	2
5	7	2	3	8	4	1	6	9
1	9	4	2	5	6	3	8	7
8	6	5	4	3	7	2	9	1
7	2	3	9	1	8	6	4	5
9	3	6	7	2	5	8	1	4
4	5	1	8	9	3	7	2	6
2	8	7	6	4	1	9	5	3

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/11

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

MODERN DANCE Solution: 7 letters

C	P	C	T	N	E	V	I	R	D	L	O	O	S	E
O	H	O	N	Y	Y	G	N	I	W	O	L	F	R	E
N	Y	O	L	O	P	O	V	S	M	V	C	A	L	M
C	S	R	L	A	I	E	J	B	I	E	N	E	P	O
E	I	D	P	E	R	S	O	N	A	L	N	G	N	O
N	C	I	E	S	G	U	S	S	E	L	K	T	I	D
T	A	N	E	G	U	A	T	A	R	R	L	C	A	S
R	L	A	E	L	G	C	C	A	P	O	N	E	R	L
A	A	T	R	E	H	A	O	Y	N	S	T	E	T	S
T	C	I	U	E	R	C	J	F	P	A	S	T	G	E
I	I	O	P	F	C	F	E	A	L	H	P	R	O	M
O	D	N	Ⓜ	Ⓞ	Ⓥ	Ⓔ	C	E	I	I	R	A	T	E
N	A	D	A	N	C	E	N	F	P	H	A	T	S	H
A	R	T	I	S	T	T	T	T	A	S	H	S	L	T
L	Y	R	I	C	A	L	A	C	I	S	S	A	L	C

©2015 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wordamaze Game App 12/11

Artist, Ballet, Calm, Classical, Concentration, Coordination, Dance, Diverse, Driven, Enjoy, Feel, Flowing, Focus, Free, Genre, Hats, Jagged, Legacy, Loose, Love, Lyrical, Mental, Moods, Morph, Move, Natural, Open, Passion, Personal, Physical, Pure, Radical, Recent, Sharp, Shift, Sign, Silk, Space, Speech, Start, Talent, Themes, Torso, Train, Type

Yesterday's Answer: Needles

Purchase **WONDERWORD** books in time for the holidays!
Visit WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: On second thought

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

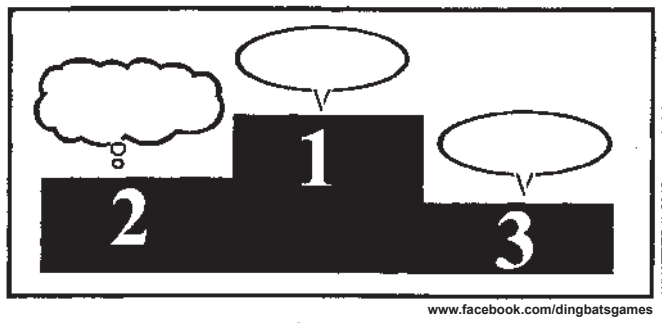
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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Find today's solution in classified section

Customers First
TRIPLE J

TRIPLE J SAIPAN, INC.
has an immediate opening for

WAREHOUSE MATERIALS MANAGER

Directs warehouse activities for Triple J group of companies; Implements operational procedures for activities, such as verification of incoming and outgoing materials. Duties involve the handling, record keeping, and disposition of all items. Experience with warehouse activities in storing building materials, furnitures, etc., is preferred but not required.

Drop off your resume at the
Triple J Corporate Office, Ground Floor, Surfrider Resort & Beach Club Brigida St., Chalan Kanoa
May submit resume at the
corpoffice@triplejsaipan.com
We accept applications up to December 31. 2015
NO PHONE CALL PLEASE

Triple J is an equal opportunity employer.

Looking for a way to tell everyone about your business?
You're looking at it!
Saipan Tribune **235-6397**

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
1 Commercial Cleaner
$6.05/hr.
Flexible time
Work holidays
Bring resume with police clearance to:
DPA Car Mart
San Antonio, Tel# 287-8688

LOOKING FOR

Office/Warehouse Manager: Manage the storage, delivery, set-up, repair, instruction-in-use, and pick-up of home medical equipment. Company will provide all required training. Basic MS Word and Excel, Good customer service. Driver's license. PT/FT Pay and position will be based on experience.

Email or send resume:
rob@vetshi.com

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Job Opening:
Headmaster for Saipan International School
- Start date: July, 1, 2016.
- 2 year contract with options to renew.
- Salary is negotiable commensurate with experience.
- Requires a Master's or Doctorate degree in Educational Administration or equivalent

Send résumé to: jkvsaipan670@aol.com

Saipan International School shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, nationality, or ethnic origin in the administration of the school's educational policies, privileges, admission policies, athletic programs, and other school administered programs made available at Saipan International School.

CAT LOVERS

We would like to adopt **2 male kittens.**
Please call: 783-1612 or 789-6359

PACIFIC ISLAND CLEANING AGENCY
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(3) Commercial Cleaners
-must have 5 years experience.
Please send resume to PO Box 502670
Koblerville, Saipan MP, 96950
E-mail:hectorsablan@yahoo.com

www.saipantribune.com

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Warehouse #3 - Size: 6,000sq/ft
$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable
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At least High School graduate. With valid driver's license. Needs to be physically fit and willing to work flexible time and must be hardworking.

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AYD Services Inc.
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Businesses slam 'excessive' $500 fire re-inspection, $500 permit fees
Are you ready to Ace it?
POCKET ANDROID PLAN $39
More US Catholics take complaints to church court
Overdrive
Mustang Boss 302
a thrill to drive, but lacks the extras
Life&Style
Davis, Dujardin win lead honors at SAG awards
Mary Tyler Moore honored for lifetime achievement
Pastimes
Calvin and Hobbes
Garfield
The Duplex
SUDOKU
Saipan Tribune Sports
Rollers eyeing two trips to PH in 201
'King of Aces' on island through January
SRCR welcomed nine new members in 2011

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9715 • Facsimile (670)236-9702

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Judiciary's records indicate that there is property held in the Superior Court's third party fiduciary account that has gone unclaimed for a period of one year or more. The apparent owners of this property are:

1. **Maria Victoria S. Trinidad**
2. **Li Zhen Wang**
3. **Su Juan Ni**
4. **Yu Juan Xue**
5. **Dong Mei Guo**
6. **Liezel M. Bordios**
7. **Jesus S. Sablan**
8. **Huawu Cheng**
9. **Perfecto Ramos**
10. **Richard Cartwright**
11. **Ying Jian Shen**
12. **Xia Tang**
13. **Jujun Zhou**
14. **Jerry Manglonzo**
15. **Jun Miao Yuan**
16. **Emiliana Cabalteja**
17. **Rudy K. Dela Cruz**
18. **Jinming Jin**
19. **Danilo Carasig**
20. **Jun Qing Chen**
21. **Wen Jian Zheng**
22. **Yakui Yang**
23. **Hanzhe Xuan**
24. **Gerry B. Malit**
25. **Changjin Cui**
26. **Thomas Aldan Duenas**
27. **Jihong Jin**
28. **Williamito S. Angeles**

Pursuant to the Judiciary Abandoned Funds Act, 1 CMC §§ 30101 - 30103, notice is hereby given of the Judiciary's intent to forfeit this property as it is presumed abandoned. This property is returnable to a person having legal or beneficial interest in the property upon request to the Administrator, Juan Diego V. Tenorio at 236-9700. A request for a return of the property must be made no later than April 12, 2016.

WANTED

NEWS REPORTER

The *Saipan Tribune* is looking for a FULL-TIME news reporter.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Above average writing skills and can work within deadlines;
- Fast learner, self-starter, and a team player;
- Computer literate;
- With photography skills;
- Must have reliable means of transportation.

If you have what it takes to be part of a dynamic team, email your résumé and samples of your work to editor@saipantribune.com. You may also drop it off at the *Saipan Tribune* office on the second floor of the JP Center Building on Beach Road, Garapan. ON-ISLAND HIRES PREFERRED.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer.
Qualified women, minorities, and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 · Saipan MP 96950
T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

DEPUTY CLERK I
Office of the Clerk of Court
Superior Court
SAIPAN

DUTIES: This position is under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge and the direct supervision of the Clerk of Court or his/her designee. The employee performs work in accordance with established policies, practices, and court procedures. The following are required duties:

- Receives, reviews, and records documents filed for hearings;
- Provides data entry of pleadings onto the court's case management system;
- Provides daily updates of pleadings and other caseload information for the assigned judge through the court's automated processes, including, but not limited to, the document imaging and online filing system;
- Assesses fines, receives and accounts for monies, issues receipts, prepares deposit slips and provides disbursements per court order or requests from customer service window;
- Prepares and maintains physical and electronic file folders for court cases, including tracking of all pleadings associated with individual cases files;
- Serves as a courtroom clerk when court hearings are in session, including, but not limited to, swearing in of witnesses, logging of all admitted exhibits, tracking all phases of a hearing on an index sheet for the recording counter, operating the electronic recording equipment, and providing continuous monitoring of the recording equipment to ensure the integrity of the record; and,
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Must have a high school diploma or equivalent plus a minimum of three (3) years related work experience. There is a strong preference for those with work experience in the legal field and those with a Bachelor's Degree. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary will be $20,485 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at OPM offices in the CNMI, the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Human Resources
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)236-9818
Fax. (670) 236-9702
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.justice.gov.mp.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Judiciary Administrative Office
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T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

DEPUTY CLERK II

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the Presiding Judge and under the direct supervision of the Superior Court Clerk of Court on Saipan the exercise of independent judgment and taking independent action in accordance with established policies, practices and court procedures. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Receive, review and record documents filed for hearings;
- Review documents presented by litigants for accuracy, proper form, and conformance with court rules;
- Track cases taken under advisement, ensure updates of same and provide periodic reports to the Clerk of Court and affected judges;
- Set the court calendar and adjust the same to maximize courtroom time and meet unusual situations;
- Prepare bench warrants, subpoenas, summons and other related documents for issuance;
- Assess fines, receive and account for monies, issue receipts, prepare deposit slips, and make disbursements when ordered or directed;
- Interpret and disseminate information, policies, and procedures governing the hearing of cases;
- Assist with the certification of records in cases appealed to the CNMI Supreme Court;
- Serve as a courtroom clerk for the judges, which includes but is not limited to the following: ensuring courtroom readiness for proceedings, attending court sessions, administering oaths to witnesses, operating electronic recording equipment, listing all relevant portions of proceedings on a log, receiving, marking and assuming responsibility of all introduced evidence, and performing translation during proceedings;
- Assist the Clerk of Court with Jury Trial Coordination. Compile, track, and update applicable lists of the Commonwealth citizens eligible for jury service,
- Assist with report writing and data management, and
- Performs other related duties as assigned by the Presiding Judge and/for Superior Court Clerk of Court.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate should have any combination equivalent to graduation from an accredited college or university with a bachelor degree in business administration or related field, plus a minimum of four (4) years of experience in law, law enforcement, court, administration or related work. There is a strong preference for those with work experience in the legal field and those with a bachelor's degree. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This position is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. Annual salary will be $25-27,000.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

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Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
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Tel. (670)236-9818
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This job announcement will remain open until filled. This job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.justice.gov.mp.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

DeRozan, Raptors snap Spurs' streak, 97-94

AP
Toronto Raptors' guard Kyle Lowry (7) falls into the crowd, spilling drinks on the court, during first half of an NBA basketball game against the San Antonio Spurs in Toronto, Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2015.

TORONTO (AP)— DeMar DeRozan scored 28 points, Kyle Lowry added 19 and the Toronto Raptors snapped the San Antonio Spurs' four-game winning streak with a 97-94 victory on Wednesday night.

Luis Scola had 16 points as Toronto never trailed and handed San Antonio just its third loss in the last 18 games.

Manu Ginobili had 17 points off the bench for the Spurs, who also got 13 points from LaMarcus Aldridge.

Danny Green hit a 3-pointer following a timeout to make it a three-point game with 2:47 to play, but Bismack Biyombo threw down a dunk to restore the Raptors' five-point edge.

Kawhi Leonard's follow shot later narrowed the advantage to three, but Toronto was able to run out the clock.

The Raptors had a strong start against what was the NBA's best team in opponent points per game (88.3). They made five of their first six shots from the field, racing into an 11-point lead and turning in their best first-quarter performance of the season at home with 27 points for a six-point edge.

DeRozan ensured there would be no letup, scoring eight of his 16 first-half points in the second quarter to push Toronto's lead to 53-46.

The Spurs shot just 5 of 20 from the floor in the fourth quarter as Toronto pushed the lead back to 11 entering the period.

Grizzlies 93, Pistons 92

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Matt Barnes tossed in a desperation 3-pointer from just inside midcourt with 1.1 seconds left to lift Memphis over Detroit.

Marcus Morris missed a contested shot with 7 seconds left that could have clinched the game for the Pistons, and Andre Drummond's tip bounced off the rim.

The Grizzlies grabbed the ball and fired an outlet pass to Barnes. He let go a running, two-handed shot as he crossed halfcourt that went in, silencing the Palace crowd as players on the Memphis bench celebrated.

Morris missed another tough shot at the buzzer, and the Pistons lost their second straight following a four-game winning streak.

Zach Randolph led Memphis with 21 points and 16 rebounds, while Marc Gasol had 19 points and 12 rebounds.

Drummond had 18 points and 19 rebounds for the Pistons. Reggie Jackson added 18 points and seven assists.

Celtics 105, Bulls 100

In Boston, Isaiah Thomas scored nine of his 20 points in the final 3 minutes to lead Boston past Chicago.

Kelly Olynyk added 15 points, Jae Crowder and Evan Turner each had 13 and David Lee scored 12 for the Celtics, who had eight players in double figures and won for the fourth time in five games.

They host undefeated Golden State next on Friday.

Jimmy Butler led Chicago with a season-high 36 points, and Pau Gasol had his fifth straight double-double with 16 points and 15 rebounds. Derrick Rose added 12 points for the Bulls, who lost their third straight.

Rockets 109, Wizards 103

In Washington, James Harden had 42 points, nine rebounds and seven assists in Houston's victory over Washington.

Harden scored 23 in the second half a day after he finished with a season-low 10 points in a loss at Brooklyn.

Corey Brewer added 15 points and Patrick Beverly had 14 to help Houston to its fourth win in five games.

John Wall had 26 points, 12 assists and nine rebounds for Washington. Marcin Gortat tied a season high with 18 points and grabbed 13 rebounds in his first game back after missing three for personal reasons.

With the game tied at 99, Harden stepped back to hit a 16-foot jumper over Bradley Beal, absorbed Beal's foul and hit a free throw to put Houston up by three with 2:13 left.

Hornets 99, Heat 81

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Kemba Walker and Marvin Williams scored 18 points each to lead Charlotte past Miami for its third straight victory.

Tyler Johnson scored 20 for Miami, which had won three of four. Dwyane Wade and Gerald Green each added 11.

Nicolas Batum and Jeremy Lamb had 10 points apiece for the Hornets, who learned earlier in the day the NBA suspended injured center Al Jefferson for five games for violating the terms of the NBA/NBPA Anti-Drug Program.

Jefferson, out with a strained left calf, will begin to serve the suspension when he returns to action.

Timberwolves 123, Lakers 122, OT

In Minneapolis, Kevin Martin scored 37 points and Karl-Anthony Towns had 26 points and 14 rebounds to lift Minnesota over Los Angeles in overtime.

Martin went 6 for 9 from 3-point range and scored 17 in the fourth quarter to help the Timberwolves (9-12) improve to 3-9 at home. Towns made 11 of 19 shots and tied a career high for rebounds.

D'Angelo Russell scored a career-high 23 points and Julius Randle had 20 points and 12 rebounds for the Lakers (3-19) in what was likely Kobe Bryant's last game in Minnesota. Bryant scored 11 points on 5-for-13 shooting in 24 minutes.

The Lakers had a chance to win in overtime, but Russell and Roy Hibbert missed jumpers in the final 9.4 seconds.

Clippers 109, Bucks 95

In Milwaukee, J.J. Redick scored a season-high 31 points as Los Angeles pulled away in the second half against Milwaukee.

Redick, who averaged 24 points in two games against the Bucks last season, once again tormented his former team, scoring 15 in the third quarter.

Blake Griffin had 21 points and 14 rebounds, and Chris Paul added 18 points and 18 assists for the Clippers, who won their third straight. DeAndre Jordan had 19 rebounds.

Michael Carter-Williams finished with 20 points and 11 assists for the Bucks.

Hawks 98, Mavericks 95

In Dallas, Paul Millsap scored 20 points, including a jumper that capped Atlanta's game-turning run in the final minutes against Dallas.

The Hawks trailed 93-89 with 3:07 to play before Millsap scored four points in a 7-0 spurt. He also led Atlanta with 11 rebounds.

The Mavericks inbounded with 11.4 seconds left after Jeff Teague hit two free throws to put the Hawks ahead 98-95. Deron Williams' long 3-point attempt at the buzzer banged off the rim.

Williams led the Mavericks with 18 points. Zaza Pachulia had 11 points and 17 rebounds.

Teague and Al Horford added 14 points apiece for Atlanta, which won consecutive games for the first time since a seven-game winning streak that ended in early November.

The Mavericks shot 36 percent, their worst mark of the season.

Jazz 106, Knicks 85

In Salt Lake City, Gordon Hayward scored 24 points as Utah bullied New York from start to finish.

Hayward shot 9 for 14 from the field, including four 3-pointers, to go with four rebounds and five assists.

The Jazz led 70-37 early in the third quarter for their largest lead in any game this season.

Hayward and Derrick Favors combined to score 15 of Utah's first 18 points as the Jazz sprinted out to an 18-4 lead. The game was never competitive afterward.

Favors finished with 20 and eight rebounds.

Carmelo Anthony never found a groove, scoring 12 points on 3-for-11 shooting. The 21-point loss was the worst of the season for New York.

Suns 107, Magic 104

In Phoenix, Brandon Knight scored 17 of his 21 points in the second half, and Alex Len set career highs with 20 points and 14 rebounds as Phoenix beat Orlando.

Eric Bledsoe made a tie-breaking layup for the Suns with 1:11 left and finished with 21 points and nine assists. The Magic had a couple of chances to tie in the final 30 seconds but turned the ball over, and Victor Oladipo and Evan Fournier missed potential tying 3-pointers in the final 5 seconds.

Nicola Vucevic led Orlando with 21 points and 11 rebounds, but missed a short putback in the final minute that could have tied it.

Hornets' Jefferson draws 5-game drug suspension from NBA

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)— The Charlotte Hornets will be without Al Jefferson for an additional five games once he returns from a leg injury after the veteran center was suspended without pay for violating the terms of the NBA/NBPA Anti-Drug Program.

Jefferson is currently out with a strained left calf and can't begin serving the five-game suspension until he's healthy, the league announced Wednesday.

Team officials said on Nov. 30 that Jefferson would miss "two to three weeks" with the injury, so it is unclear exactly when Jefferson will be eligible to return to action.

"I just feel so low right now for every little boy and every little girl who looks at me as somebody they look up to," Jefferson said an hour before the Hornets hosted Miami. "For me to make mistakes like this, it's not cool. It's not cool for them and it's not cool for me. That kills me more than anything."

The Hornets released a statement saying they're "disappointed in Al's decisions that led to this suspension. As an organization, we do not condone this behavior."

The banned substance Jefferson used has not been disclosed. When a reporter asked Jefferson if the substance was marijuana, he declined to answer.

"I failed a drug test," he said.

The team said it has addressed the situation with Jefferson and he's "regretful and understands that we expect him to learn from this mistake."

Jefferson released a statement through the team apologizing to the organization, owner Michael Jordan, his teammates and fans for what he called a "poor decision."

Jefferson, who said he lost 25 pounds this offseason, was averaging 13.7 points and 6.4 rebounds per game this season for the Hornets, below his career averages of 16.9 points and nine rebounds per game. Jefferson said he first learned of the positive drug test "about two weeks ago."

He's in the final season of a three-year contract.

Walker to Mets, Miller to D-backs in winter meetings trades

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—The National League champion New York Mets filled a key spot by obtaining second baseman Neil Walker from Pittsburgh for pitcher Jon Niese, and the Detroit Tigers bolstered their bullpen by acquiring reliever Justin Wilson from the New York Yankees in Wednesday trades at the winter meetings.

The Arizona Diamondbacks, meanwhile, kept upgrading their rotation. A day after finalizing a $206.5 million deal for major league ERA leader Zack Greinke, they announced their five-player swap with Atlanta that brought All-Star righty Shelby Miller and sent No. 1 draft pick Dansby Swanson to the Braves.

"Our ownership stepped up in allowing us to get Zack Greinke. It puts us in a position to get better as a team, but we weren't complete. We needed an additional piece to our rotation," Arizona general manager Dave Stewart said.

Miller should slot into the No. 2 spot in the rotation ahead of Patrick Corbin, Rubby De La Rosa and Robbie Ray.

"You're getting almost 800 innings out of your starting rotation, which should help our bullpen out," Stewart said. "The biggest part of our problems in our 'pen last year is we had to go there very often and ask them for a lot of innings."

Other teams are waiting for the market to develop, especially for hitters.

Among the 17 elite free agents who didn't accept qualifying offers, five had reached agreements and all were pitchers: Greinke, Jordan Zimmermann, Jeff Samardzija, John Lackey and Marco Estrada. In addition, Hisashi Iwakuma has an agreement with the Los Angeles Dodgers that remains to be finalized.

Among the remaining 11 are pitchers Wei-Yin Chen, Yovani Gallardo and Ian Kennedy, joined by first baseman Chris Davis; second basemen Daniel Murphy and Howie Kendrick; shortstop Ian Desmond; and outfielders Jason Heyward, Justin Upton, Alex Gordon and Dexter Fowler.

Davis appears set to establish the top of the batters' market after hitting 159 home runs in a four-year span. His agent, Scott Boras, is known for striking deals later in the offseason.

"In the ice-cream sandwich of markets, you have your boundaries, and then you have all the vanilla in the middle," Boras said. "It's pretty hard to get to the vanilla unless you get to chocolate on the outside."

In another trade, Seattle obtained first baseman Adam Lind from Milwaukee for right-handers Daniel Missaki, Carlos Herrera and Freddy Peralta.

The Mets got Walker a day after their No. 1 choice for a new second baseman, Ben Zobrist, signed as a free agent with the Chicago Cubs.

"We could have gone East Coast, West Coast. But I think in the end, this was the one that really motivated me the most," said Zobrist, the only player to appear at a news conference during the first three days of the meetings.

AP

Switch-hitting free agent Ben Zobrist speaks at a news conference at Major League Baseball's winter meetings where it was announced that Zobrist has signed with the Chicago Cubs Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2015, in Nashville, Tenn.

The 30-year-old Walker fills the hole created when playoff slugger Daniel Murphy became a free agent after New York lost the World Series to Kansas City.

"It's an exciting opportunity, obviously, with the success the Mets have had this past year," Walker said. "Obviously there's mixed emotions being a born-and-bred Pittsburgher."

Walker batted .269 with 16 homers and 71 RBIs this year.

"We view him as a real positive alternative to the deal we were looking to do the other day," Mets assistant general manager John Ricco said. "He fits on a lot of different levels—a switch-hitter, he's got some power."

The 29-year-old Niese became expendable with the development of young Mets aces Jacob deGrom, Matt Harvey, Noah Syndergaard and Steven Matz. Niese was 9-10 with a 4.13 ERA last season. A starter for years, he was shifted to the bullpen for the postseason.

The Yankees dealt Wilson, a 28-year-old lefty, to Detroit for minor league right-handers Chad Green and Luis Cessa—the latter sent by the Mets to the Tigers in the July 31 trade that brought Yoenis Cespedes to New York. Wilson went 5-0 this year with a 3.10 ERA in 74 appearances. Earlier this offseason, the Tigers acquired closer Francisco Rodriguez and right-hander Mark Lowe.

Yankees general manager Brian Cashman is willing to trade left fielder Brett Gardner and closer Andrew Miller. Cashman is confident Dellin Betances could take over as closer.

MLB recommends netting between dugouts for all 30 ballparks

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Major League Baseball recommended teams have protective netting between the dugouts for any field-level seats within 70 feet of home plate.

The guidelines were announced Wednesday at the winter meetings following a season in which several fans were injured by foul balls, prompting MLB to study fan safety. Most teams are expected to expand their use of netting.

"It is important that fans have the option to sit behind protective netting or in other areas of the ballpark where foul balls and bats are less likely to enter," Commissioner Rob Manfred said in a statement. "This recommendation attempts to balance the need for an adequate number of seating options with our desire to preserve the interactive pre-game and in-game fan experience that often centers around the dugouts, where fans can catch foul balls, see their favorite players up close and, if they are lucky, catch a tossed ball or other souvenir. "

The recommendation also applies to spring training ballparks, many of them owned by municipalities.

"The recommendations strike a balance between providing a reasonable inventory of seats behind protective netting at each stadium while at the same time accommodating fans who desire seats with unobstructed access to players and on field activity," said Dan Halem, MLB's chief legal officer. "Both fan safety and fan choice are extremely important to MLB, and these recommendations reflect those principles."

Boston, the Los Angeles Dodgers and Philadelphia immediately said they will follow the recommendation. The Phillies hope to install thinner material that is less noticeable.

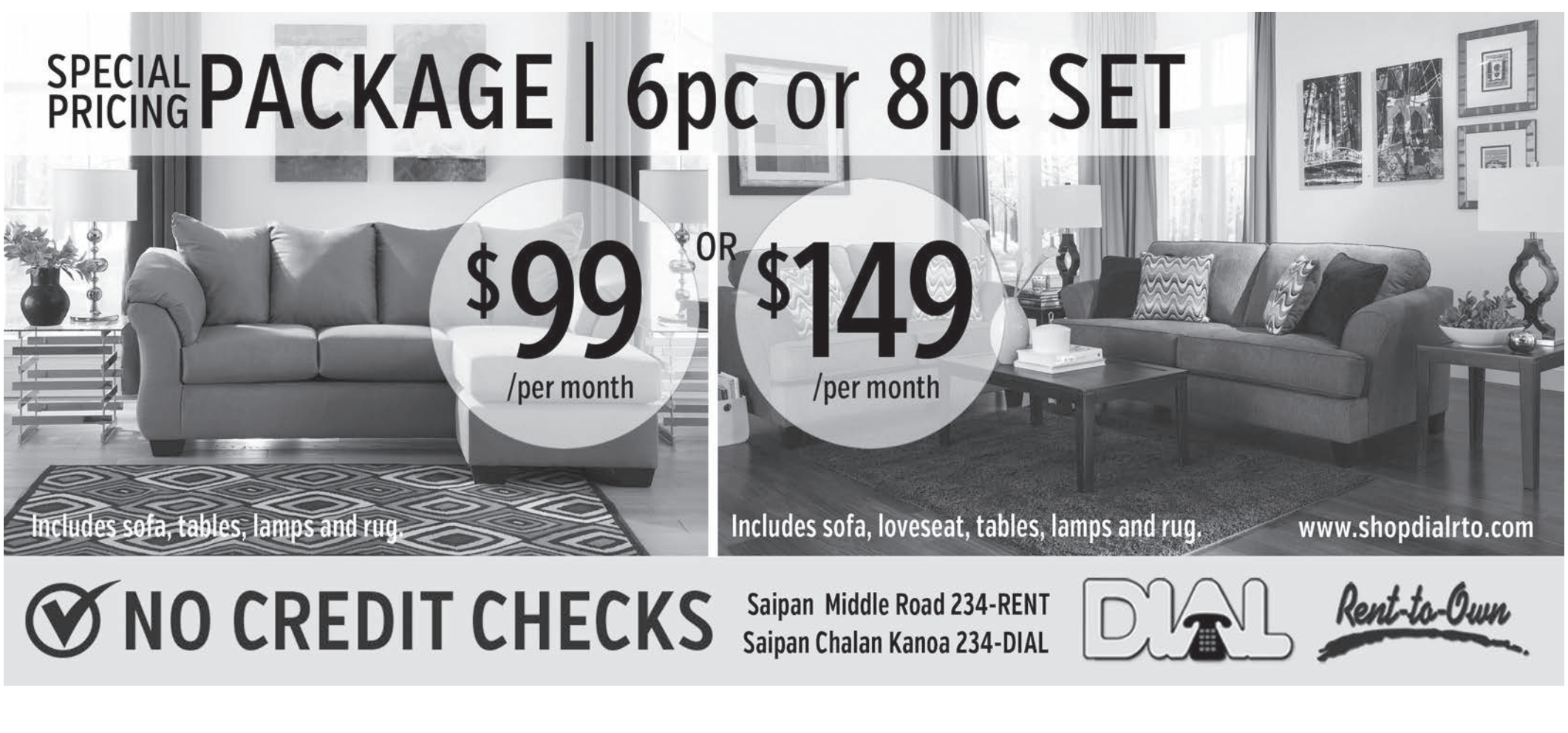
"We anticipate that such compliance will require us to expand our protective netting behind home plate about 10 feet in width on both sides," Philadelphia Chief Operating Officer Michael Stiles said. ""We understand that our fans differ in their opinions about sitting behind protective netting and we will do our best to accommodate those different preferences,"

Boston is "in the process of evaluating different design options to identify the best solution for Fenway Park and is proactively reaching out to the ticket holders most affected by the planned changes," the Red Sox said.

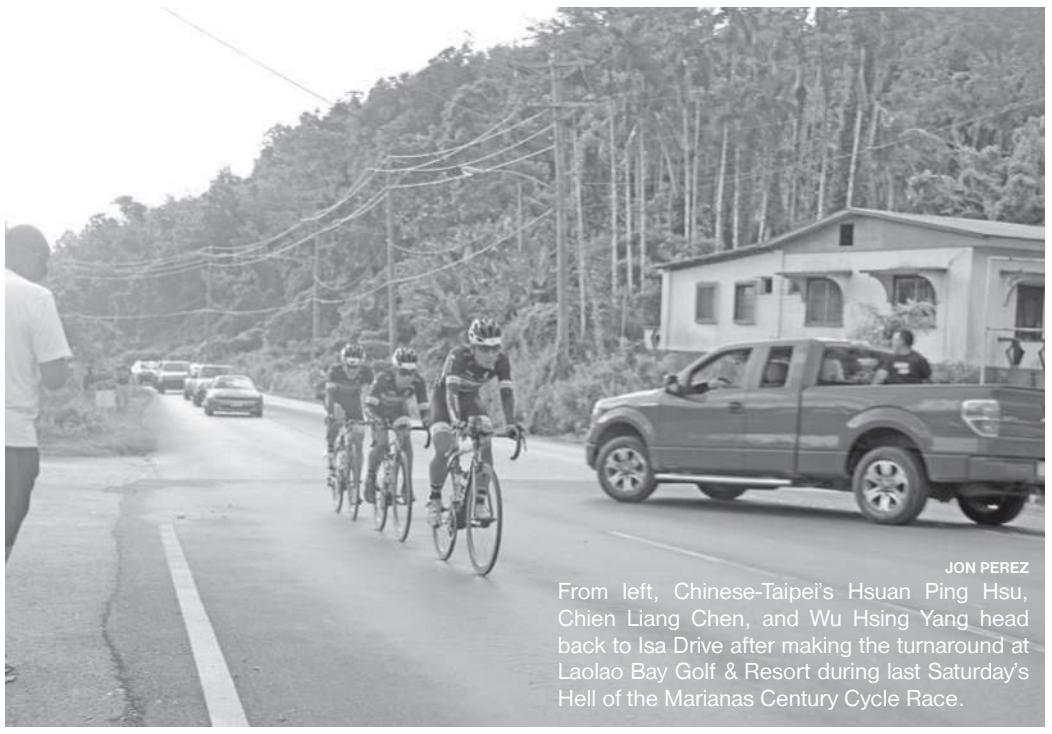
Cincinnati and Houston said their ballparks already are in compliance.

MLB said it will work with teams and ticket sellers to identify which seats are behind netting. By 2017, the actual tickets are likely to indicate whether they are behind protection.

"We will fight to make these new safety measures more than just recommendations and to make sure the measures are adequate," said Steve Berman, a lawyer for several fans who in July sued MLB in U.S. District Court in San Francisco. "By next season, we don't want any spectators to be under the threat of being harmed by a foul ball or bat injury, period."



Hell of the Marianas hosts visitors from 6 countries



JON PEREZ

From left, Chinese-Taipei's Hsuan Ping Hsu, Chien Liang Chen, and Wu Hsing Yang head back to Isa Drive after making the turnaround at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort during last Saturday's Hell of the Marianas Century Cycle Race.

The 9th annual Hell of the Marianas century cycling race was held on Saturday, Dec. 5, and brought more than 50 off-island visitors from Guam, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, U.S., and Russia to Saipan.

First place overall went to the 2014 third place finisher Ryutaro Nakamura of Japan with a time of 2:54:51, while the top female spot went to former Saipan resident and local favorite Mieko Carey, with a time of 3:25:52.

"We want to extend a huge thank you to all the local Saipan agencies, including the departments of Public Safety, Public Works, Parks and Recreation, and the Commonwealth Health Center that made this event possible," said race director Eric Tydingco. "Our top priority is to ensure our local and visiting cyclists are safe out on the course, and the overwhelming support from the community is one of the best gifts a race director can receive."

HOM is considered the "toughest race in Micronesia," and it continues to bring in cyclists from all over the world that are looking to challenge themselves with the 100-kilometer course packed with relentless elevation changes and intense heat and humidity.

"Saipan has the ultimate outdoor playground, and Marianas Visitors Authority has done a phenomenal job with their sports tourism programs, continuing to attract new and repeat visitors to the Marianas," said Tydingco. "Kudos to Perry Tenorio and his staff for their tireless work in promoting Saipan as the ultimate destination for outdoor sporting events."

HOM is presented by Marianas Visitors Authority, sponsored by IT&E, T Galleria by DFS, Triple J, Hertz, MarPac, Star Water & Ice, the Northern Marianas Islands Cycling Federation, the Marianas Resort & Spa, KKMP, KZMI and the Sorenson Media Group and is a PIVOT LLC event production. For additional race information, visit hellofthemarianas.com. ***(PR)***

NMA moves Christmas Island Relay date

The Northern Marianas Athletics has moved the date of the 34th Annual Christmas Island Relay from Dec. 26 to Dec. 19.

NMA official and athletics coach Elias Rangamar said the event, which is usually held on a Saturday after Christmas, is much closer to the 25th this year unlike in the previous years.

"The original schedule was every Saturday after Christmas but it's a tight schedule this year. Unlike before, we usually hold it two or three days after Christmas," said Rangamar yesterday.

The race starts at 6am with the first runner of each of the five-member teams beginning the run toward the finish line at the Last Command Post from the Pacific Island Club's south parking lot. Each member will then alternately run one mile (1.6 kilometers) until they complete the half marathon distance (13.7 miles or 22k). Open and youth mixed teams, and solo are the categories.

Teams in the open division must have at least one U16 member and a female runner or one who is 40 or older. The youth mixed team must have at least one female or one U12 runner.

The entry fee is $25 per team or $5 for each member, while $10 for the solo runners, male or female.

NMA secretary general Robin Sapong said, in a Facebook post, that the Island Relay is one of the association's events that promote a healthy lifestyle.

"This is just one of the events the NMA hosts in its continued efforts to promote physical fitness, health and wellness, and fight obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and other medical conditions that plague the people of the CNMI," added Sapong.

For more information, call Rangamar at 989-5225 or email eli_rang@yahoo.com, or Sapong at rsapong@gmail.com. ***(Jon Perez)***

SSC heads first meet of the season

The first swimming tournament of the 2015-2016 season will be held tomorrow at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

The Saipan Swim Club-hosted meet will begin at 8am and will feature six events. The competition will start with two relays—the 4x100m freestyle and the 4x500m freestyle. In the individual races, SSC has lined up the 100m, 200m, 400m, and 800 freestyle events with the longest swim taking place first.

Meanwhile, SSC members warmed up for the season-opening tournament with a mini meet last Saturday.

"It was an intramural club meet designed to give beginner, intermediate, and advance swimmers taking swimming lessons the chance to showcase what they have learned in their classes as well as instilling in them a sense of achievement and confidence in the water," SSC head coach Jacoby Winkfield told *Saipan Tribune*.

"It was a fun event for everyone with the older swimmers in the water assisting the younger swimmers, parents taking pictures, and coaches as well seeing the swimmers hard work paying off," he added.

The club's swimming lessons resumed late as the Marpi pool was closed for more than three months in the aftermath of Typhoon Soudelor.

Classes are held every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at three different levels: beginner, intermediate, and advanced. To enrol or for more information, contact SSC at saipanswimclub@gmail.com. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Swim Club swimmers and coaches pose for a photo after a mini meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool last Saturday.

LEE

From Page 36

The 13-year-old Lee's finals opponent was the No. 6 seed in the main draw and ranked at No. 200 (national), the highest ranked player she faced in the consolation draw.

"That's why I was kind of surprise and could not really do my plan in the first set," Lee said.

After losing by two points in a back and forth match, Lee sorted things out and tried to compose herself.

"I changed my style and calmed myself, breathing in and out. I played smarter, trying my best to limit my errors," the Saipan Community School student added.

While Lee minimized her mistakes in the second set, Smith continued to play erratic in the super tiebreak third set, allowing the CNMI bet to notch an 8-point win and complete the come-from-behind victory.

The win against Smith was Lee's fifth in a row since she was forced to retire (due to knee strain) from her opening match against the No. 2-ranked Madison Bishop of South Australia in the 64-player main draw last Saturday.

The victory also came three days after the Commonwealth's top junior play took one of the "December Showdown" awards in the tournament. Lee was lauded by the event's organizers for showing respect toward the game officials, her co-players, and others involved in the competition. The two other awards are for people who compete for every point and commit to the game.

Lee, along with fellow CNMI players Tania Tan, Robbie Schorr, Ken Song, and Conatsu Kaga are in Australia as part of the Pacific GSDF (Grand Slam Development Fund) Touring Team. They will stay in the Land Down Under until next week, as they will compete in a team tournament, starting this Saturday.

PADDLE

From Page 36

island this year.

The Marianas PaddleFest was held last month with no less than Guam Olympian Sean Pangelinan, who also traces his roots on Saipan, joining the one-day event by holding a free clinic.

There are also 100 active paddlers on the island, while the Saipan Paddling Club has a juniors program with 30 members from different high schools.

Last Dec. 5, NMNPSF held a racing event that had a good turnout. They will also hold a six-man canoe memorial race on Jan. 30 at the Sandy Beach in Chalan Kanoa.

Meanwhile, Andrew has asked NMSA for any assistance to address the group's problem on the shortage of canoes.

"There used to be six but now there are only four canoes that can be used after Typhoon Soudelor damaged two. What we need is the same type of canoes that we have been using," said Andrew.

NMSA president Mike White agreed to help NMNPSF and also instructed them to start preparing for the 2021 Pacific Mini Games.

Outrigger-canoe is one of the 12 proposed sports to be played when Saipan hosts the trimmed down version of the quadrennial event.

"Outrigger canoe is an important part of the CNMI, culturally. NMSA is willing to help you get the equipment. All you have to do is submit a detailed proposal of what you need," said White.

BIDDING

From Page 36

Association executive director Tony Rogolifoi welcomed the news as the project is now moving forward.

"They would accept more bidders but they will go to the three lowest bidders. Good thing the project has now moved forward," Rogolifoi said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

Rogolifoi also echoed Muna's concern, saying that the winning contractor must meet standards to bring back the status of the track, which got a Level II certification from the International Association of Athletics Federations.

"We're looking to have the track resurfaced by middle of 2016. The process must be done correctly to guarantee the longevity of the facility so it would stay the same when we host the 2021 Pacific Mini Games," added Rogolifoi.

A German expert in installing rubber track surfaces supervised the entire process when the Oleai track oval was constructed in early 2000. The track stadium opened in 2002 and has hosted several international events, including the 2006 Micronesian Games and 2008 Oceania Area Championship. The Oleai track and field stadium is the only eight-lane, IAAF Level II certified track in the Micronesian region.

MBI/KFC takes solo lead in JP World caging

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MBI/KFC's Ivan Devero stretches for a layup against Mariana Resort's Fred Litulumar during the first quarter of their game in the JP World caging last Wednesday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Micronesian Brokers, Inc./Kentucky Fried Chicken is still on a roll, notching two more wins in the 2nd JP World Corp. Customer Appreciation Basketball League this week at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

MBI/KFC crushed Top Development, Inc. last Monday, 113-84, and then defeated Mariana Resort last Wednesday, 89-69, to move up to a 6-0 record for the solo lead in the nine-team field. Mariana Resort and TDI dropped to 2-4 and 1-4 slates, respectively, and are at the bottom half of the team standings along with Commonwealth Utilities Corp. (1-4) and Saipan Ice (1-4). Tan Holdings (4-0), Joeten (4-1), Docomo (2-3) and McDonald's (2-3) are with MBI/KFC at the top half of the field.

Three MBI/KFC players scored 20-plus points in their rout of TDI with Naks Gonacao leading the way with his 24 points. Ambet Omampo and Angelo Fernando chipped in 23 and 22 markers, respectively. Two more MBI/KFC players hit double figures with Perry Inos adding 19 and Ivan Devero rallying 10.

MBI/KFC and TDI traded triples all throughout the game, making 11 each, but the former still prevailed due to its balance scoring. Raymond Velasco and Edward Armia carried majority of the load for TDI, recording 29 and 26 markers, respectively.

Against Mariana Resort, Fernando and Devero teamed up in giving MBI/KFC a good start, as they combined for 18 points and lifted their team to an early double-digit lead, 25-11. MBI/KFC never looked back from thereon to keep its unbeaten record.

McDonald's 67, CUC 63

McDonald's posted its second victory in five games after getting contributions from Achas family in the fourth quarter.

McLain, Joseph, Lariesie, and Michael Achas scored 16 of McDonald's 18 points in the final canto. Lariesie nailed two field goals in the homestretch, McLain recorded the team's last basket, while Michael made two clutch free throws.

It was a come-from-behind win for McDonald's as CUC had the upper hand at the end of each of the first three quarters. With the loss, Eugene Manglona's game-high 27 points was put into waste.

Joeten 81, CUC 65

Joeten earlier handed CUC its third loss after prevailing in last Monday's curtain-raiser.

Joeten broke away in the third quarter after exploding for 31 points. Ahead by only 4 at halftime, 36-32, Joeten nearly doubled up CUC, which logged only 16 points in the pivotal third, to build a 67-48 advantage. Alex Lauron led the assault, firing 13 of his 16 markers in that quarter. Dixon Kwon backed him up, contributing 9 for a team-high 20 points.

World Cup veteran holds beach soccer clinic

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

World Cup participant Takasuke Goto was on Saipan late last month and conducted a beach soccer clinic for the island's youth players at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Goto, who suited up for the Japan national team in the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup three times with his first one in 2007 during the tournament in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, held a two-hour clinic for U9 and U12 players. He was assisted by Northern Mariana Islands Football Association staff Jersh Angeles.

Angeles said Goto spent one hour each to U9 and U12 players, demonstrating warm-up drills and passing, dribbling, and shooting skills. The nearly 30 youth players also had scrimmages after the drills.

"Our players really enjoyed the clinic because it's something new to them and they find beach soccer interesting and challenging because of the different playing venue,"Angeles said.

"They learn new techniques from Takasuke and they are very eager to practice them when they get a chance to play at the beach again," Angeles added.

The island's youth players was particularly in awe of Goto's bicycle kick. The Japanese did his trademark shot against Senegal during the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup Portugal 2015 Group A match in July this year and videos of his famous kick can be seen at You Tube. In his seven appearances in World Cup, Goto has scored four goals and helped Japan get two wins.

"He was on Saipan last month training at Fiesta and he found out that we have a lot of soccer players here so he decided to coordinate with NMIFA to hold a beach soccer clinic for our youth players," Angeles said.

"He was impressed with the skills and enthusiasm of our players. He said they have a lot of potential and with Saipan surrounded by beaches, our players have all the time to train and play," Angeles added.

The NMIFA staff also said Goto is planning to return to Saipan early next year and hold a similar clinic for more players in different age groups.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

World Cup veteran Takasuke Goto, second right, talks to Saipan's youth players during a beach soccer clinic he conducted late last month at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Growth of youth baseball is board's goal

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Murig

Saipan Little League Board Inc. president A.J. Palacios Murig vowed to continue the growth and development of the CNMI's longest-running youth baseball program.

Murig, in an email sent to the media, said the board will do everything they can to ensure another successful Little League season in 2016.

"At the end of the day, it's for our youth and we'll do everything we can to see that this season is on top of any other season. The board's goal is to see a better 2016 season, increase family participation, and to further grow and develop the program."

Murig added that the entire Saipan Little League family believes in the skills and talents of all the players under the program. "We've made it to the [World Series], the highest level of play and I believe that [someday] we can take that title in all of our divisions."

He also said that they will be asking businesses for additional support this season.

"The board is aggressive in looking for sponsors—corporate or any type. We have heard of businesses that want to help our program and we welcome everyone."

The board will be meeting on Dec. 16 to come up with a sponsorship package that they will present to any business or individual interested in assisting the program.

A separate meeting will also be held on Dec. 18 to accommodate those who are willing to become a sponsor.

"We will be inviting interested business and individuals to voice their support and interest in assisting the program. We will be sending out letters to invite these businesses. Whoever comes to our meeting will be welcomed. Our doors are open," said Murig.

Murig also thanked everyone who helped the Little League program in the past seasons as they again look forward for their continued assistance next year.

"We thank our sponsors as well as our government for the financial assistance that was given to our program in the past and we look forward to our continued partnership in the coming seasons."

DeRozan, Raptors snap Spurs' streak, 97-94

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Sports

MBI/KFC takes solo lead in JP World caging

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Lee nips Aussie foe in finale

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Carol Lee showed poise in a closely fought finale against Queensland's Megan Smith to rule the main consolation draw of the 2015 14/U Australian Championships yesterday at the Melbourne Park.

Lee dropped the opening set, 4-6, before working her way back into the game and sweeping the last two, 6-2, 10-2, to clinch the championship in the 32-player west pool.

"In the first set, my opponent was kind of stronger and more consistent than the other players I played in the earlier rounds. She hit in different styles and strategies," Lee said in a message sent to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

See LEE on Page 34

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Carol Lee, seen here waiting for the shot from her foe in a local tournament last year, won the consolation draw in the 2015 14/U Australian Championships yesterday at the Melbourne Park.

Paddle sports group to strengthen program

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The new officers of the Northern Marianas National Paddle Sport Federation will be working more vigorously to strengthen their programs, especially at the grassroots level.

Newly elected NMNPSF president Justin Andrew, during last week's Northern Marianas Sports Association meeting, said they have lined up several events for 2016 that would help the group to further promote paddle sports on the island.

"We want to strengthen it and we will be working more to further promote our programs. We are finalizing a calendar of events for 2016," said Andrew. "We have already lined up a couple of events."

In the CNMI, paddle sports—outrigger, one-man canoe, and stand up paddle—is not as popular as basketball, baseball, and soccer, but is slowly making its mark with the various events held on the

See PADDLE on Page 34

JON PEREZ
High school paddlers compete in last season Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization outrigger canoe race. The Northern Marianas National Paddle Sports Federation has lined up a number of events that would further promote the sport on the island next year.

Bidding begins for Oleai track resurfacing

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The crucial phase in the resurfacing of the Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility is officially underway as bidding for the project opened last Wednesday.

Northern Marianas Housing Corp. announced last Wednesday that project packages could now be picked up at their central office in Garapan and a non-refundable $50 payment is required to join the bidding process. Interested contractors are given one month to submit their bids.

NMHC planning and environmental officer Jacob Muna confirmed to *Saipan Tribune*, in a telephone interview, that they are already seeking prospective contractors for the resurfacing project.

"We are now bidding out the project. Since the architectural and engineering design is done, we now start with the bidding process," said Muna.

He added that they are not limiting the number of bidders. "The [invitation to bid] for the track resurfacing is already out and it is open to everybody."

Muna, however, reminded all contractors that they should have the capability and knowledge of the entire project.

"We need a company that has experience or knowledge in resurfacing because the track needs to be certified and must meet standards," added Muna.

Completion of the Oleai track project is expected by June or 150 days after the request for proposal came out.

"We're hoping that the project would be done by June but it all depends on the timing and weather condition," said Muna.

A mandatory pre-bid conference is set on Dec. 23 at 10am at the NMHC conference room. Sealed bid packets must be submitted no later than Jan. 8 at 10am to the Procurement and Supply director in Lower Base.

Northern Marianas Sports

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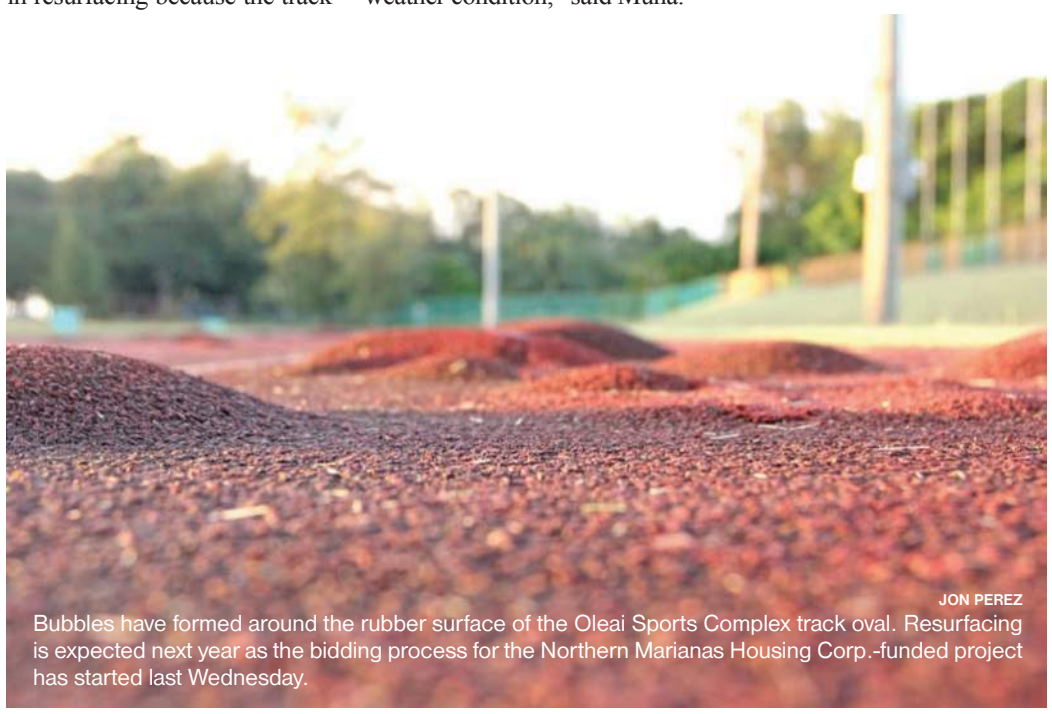

JON PEREZ
Bubbles have formed around the rubber surface of the Oleai Sports Complex track oval. Resurfacing is expected next year as the bidding process for the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.-funded project has started last Wednesday.